



48 PAGES--EVERY WEEK!

ACTION

NO. 638
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U.K. 60p

COMICS® WEEKLY

THE **DEMON**™

YARVA DAEMONICUS
ETRIGAN



PLUS
SPEEDY • PHANTOM LADY •
HERO HOTLINE • WILD DOG •
SUPERMAN

Jack Kirby
AND *Jim Lee*

SPEEDY

EXILES

PART III

-- I AM SPEAKING WITH LAURENCE HAASE, ONE OF THE PROTESTERS FIGHTING TO HAVE THE CONTROVERSIAL AIDS HOSPICE CLOSED.

IT'S A QUESTION OF OUR RIGHTS. THEY'VE PUT A HOSPITAL IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THAT'S ILLEGAL. WE WANT 'EM OUT OF HERE!

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THESE DOCTORS TRY TO TELL US WE AREN'T IN ANY DANGER. BUT HOW DO THEY KNOW? THESE PEOPLE ARE SICK-- LET 'EM DIE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

YOU ASK ME, THEM AIDS PEOPLE GOT WHAT WAS COMIN' TO THEM.

THANK GOD NOBODY ASKED YOU.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, KID? SO YOUR MISSING PERSON HAS AIDS-- NOTHING'S CHANGED. A JOB IS JUST A JOB.

YEAH-- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN IT MAKES SENSE.

RETTICK TOOK AWAY LOSSNER'S ACCOUNTS SO HE'D HAVE TO QUIT. THOSE TWO GOONS AT HIS APARTMENT BUILDING HARASSED HIM UNTIL HE HAD TO LEAVE.

SOUND'S LIKE YOU HAVE A PERSONAL STAKE IN THIS CASE. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME--?

OH, THAT'S CUTE, BURLEY LIKE AM I GAY?

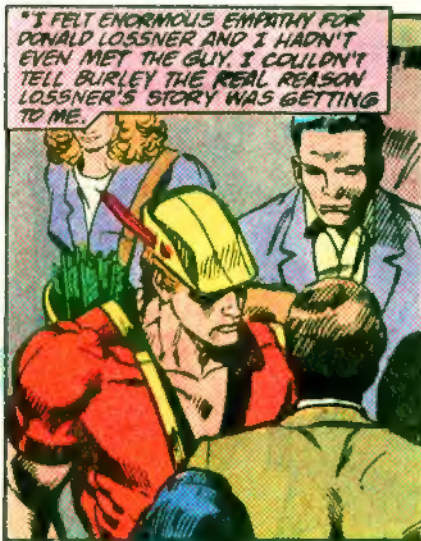
THAT'S BESIDES THE POINT, AND YOU KNOW IT.

BAD ENOUGH THE GUY CONTRACTS A FATAL DISEASE. TO SUFFER DISCRIMINATION AND UGLY INSINUATIONS ON TOP OF IT--

I'M LEAVING-- I NEED SOME AIR.

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE-- WHO SAID I WAS BUYING?

64566



"I FELT ENORMOUS EMPATHY FOR DONALD LOSSNER AND I HADN'T EVEN MET THE GUY. I COULDN'T TELL BURLEY THE REAL REASON LOSSNER'S STORY WAS GETTING TO ME."

"WASN'T SO LONG AGO I WAS HOOKED ON HEROIN. INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS TEND TO SHARE NEEDLES-- AND SPREAD THE AIDS VIRUS. THAT OLD PHRASE 'THERE BUT FOR THE GRAVE OF GOD' WAS MEANT FOR ME."



"I FELT LITTERLY ALONE. I FOUND LIANA'S PHONE NUMBER IN MY POCKET AND STARED AT IT FOR TWENTY MINUTES BEFORE CALLING."

"UHHH, HI. YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER ME--"

"WHAT DO YOU KNOW, SHE REMEMBERED"



"SHE WAS FRIENDLY, SHE WAS UNATTACHED, AND SHE WANTED TO GET TOGETHER LATER THAT DAY."

"YEAH!"



"UNFORTUNATELY, I DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO CELEBRATE."

"HEY-- CARS ON THE ROAD, PEOPLE ON THE SIDEWALK--!"



"WE HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO BRING YOU TO OUR EMPLOYER'S HOME."

"REALLY. ISN'T THAT SPECIAL."

"WE'RE TO TELL YOU THAT IT REGARDS THE LOSSNER INVESTIGATION."

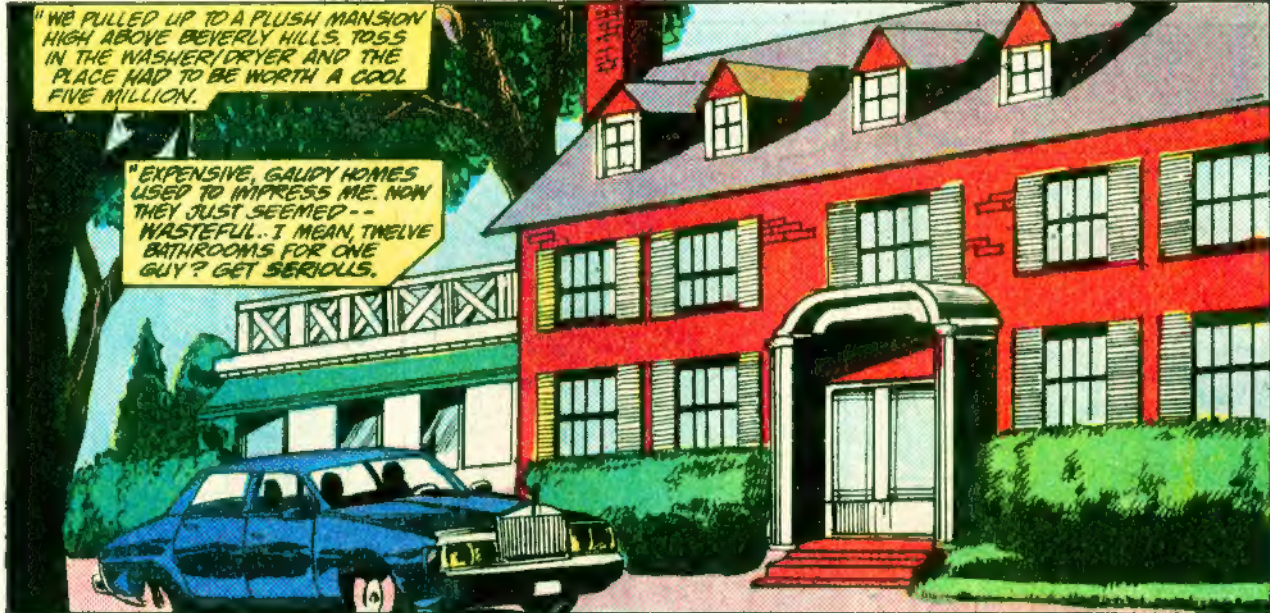


"WHAT THE HELL. I WAS TIRED OF THE BUS ANYHOW."

"BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR ARROWS! THE SEATS ARE CORINTHIAN LEATHER!"

"WE PULLED UP TO A PLUSH MANSION HIGH ABOVE BEVERLY HILLS. TOSS IN THE WASHER/DRYER AND THE PLACE HAD TO BE WORTH A COOL FIVE MILLION.

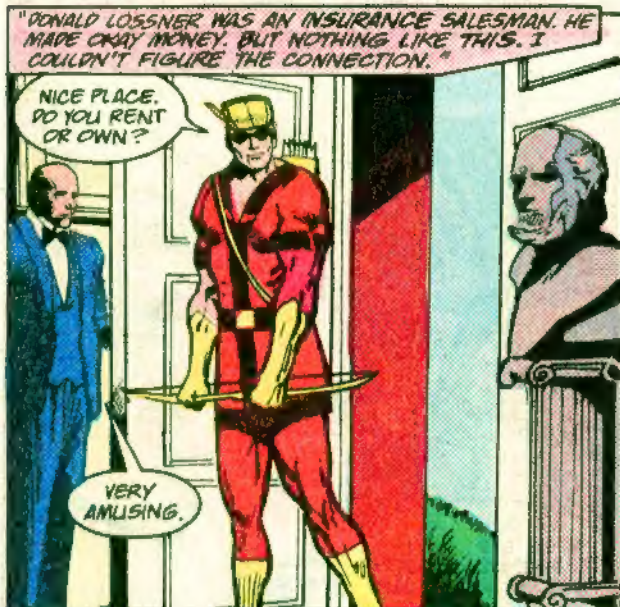
"EXPENSIVE, GAUDY HOMES USED TO IMPRESS ME. NOW THEY JUST SEEMED -- WASTEFUL.. I MEAN, TWELVE BATHROOMS FOR ONE GUY? GET SERIOUS.



"DONALD LOSSNER WAS AN INSURANCE SALESMAN. HE MADE OKAY MONEY, BUT NOTHING LIKE THIS. I COULDN'T FIGURE THE CONNECTION."

NICE PLACE. DO YOU RENT OR OWN?

VERY AMUSING.



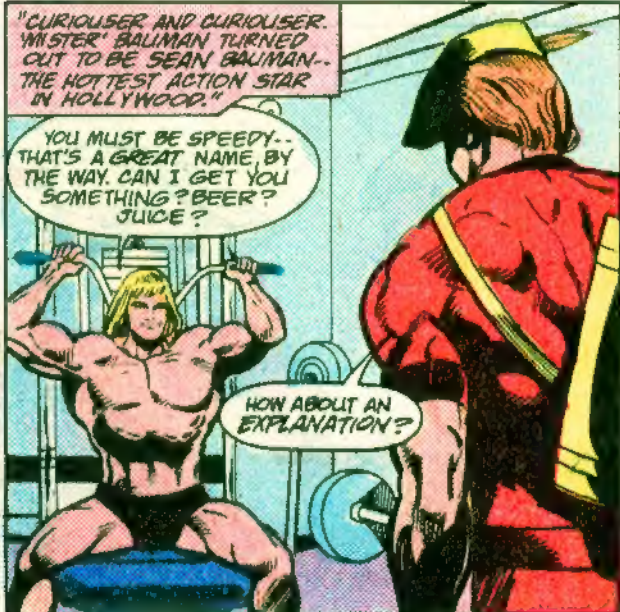
MR. BAUMAN WILL SEE YOU NOW.



"CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER. 'MASTER' BAUMAN TURNED OUT TO BE SEAN BAUMAN-- THE HOTTEST ACTION STAR IN HOLLYWOOD."

YOU MUST BE SPEEDY-- THAT'S A GREAT NAME BY THE WAY. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING? BEER? JUICE?

HOW ABOUT AN EXPLANATION?



"BAUMAN HAD BEEN PLAYING MOVIE TOUGH GUYS SINCE THE EARLY '70'S. CRITICS HATED HIM, BUT THEN, CRITICS DON'T PAY THE MORTGAGE -- ESPECIALLY IN BEVERLY HILLS."

YOU'RE PROBABLY TICKED OFF AT ALL THE MYSTERY--HELL, I'D BE MAD, TOO.

C'MON, LET'S TALK OUT BY THE POOL.



"IN HIS FILMS, BALUMAN WAS THE SEXY LONER-- THE KIND OF GUY WHO SQUINTS FIRST AND ASKS QUESTIONS LATER. I NEVER SAW THE ATTRACTION-- BUT WHAT DO I KNOW?"

NICE VIEW, HUH?

YEAH, SPECTACULAR. WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH DONALD LOSSNER?

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF MOVIE ACTORS WHO CHANGED THEIR NAMES FOR THE SCREEN-- MARION MORRISON BECAME JOHN WAYNE, THAT SORT OF THING--

WELL, I'M PHILLIP LOSSNER.

THAT'S ME AND DONNIE LAST FALL AT THE PREMIERE OF "RAW HEAT."

KEEP THE PICTURE-- IT MIGHT HELP YOU.

SO YOU HIRED BURLEY, AND BURLEY HIRED ME.

YEAH, YOU KNOW, DONNIE AND I WERE NEVER THAT CLOSE. AFTER OUR PARENTS DIED, WE WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS. HE USED TO SAY I WAS THE PLAYBOY HUGH HEFNER COULD NEVER BE.

BUT HE'S MY BROTHER AND I LOVE HIM. I WANT HIM FOUND.

I THINK I KNOW WHY HE DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT.

I'M SORRY TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU, BALUMAN-- BUT YOUR BROTHER HAS AIDS.

THAT 'GAY' DISEASE?

A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE CONTRACTED IT-- BUT GAY MEN ARE CERTAINLY ONE OF THE HIGH RISK GROUPS-- AND THAT INCLUDES DONALD.

YOU'RE A LIAR.



HEY! BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT-- IT WON'T CHANGE THE TRUTH.

SHUT UP! JUST--SHUT UP!



I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED THAT PIG BURLEY. HE'D SAY ANYTHING FOR A BUCK--

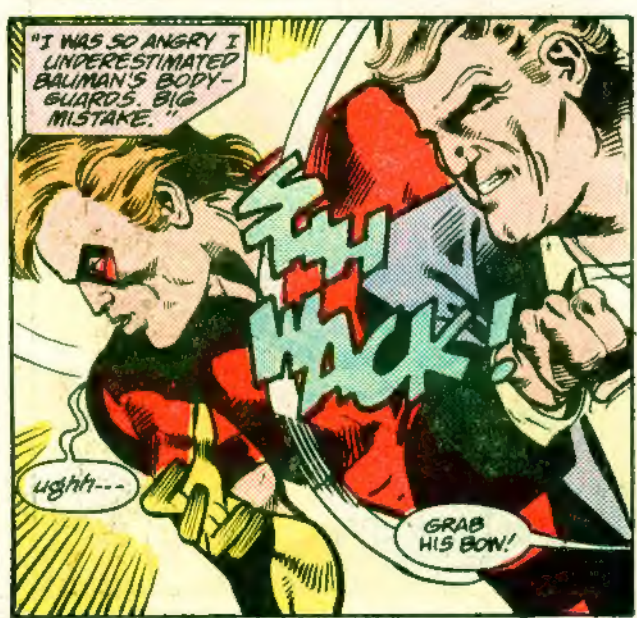
WHO ARE YOU REALLY WORKING FOR? THE SNOOP & THE EXAMINER?

THAT'S IT. I'M OUTTA HERE.



"I WAS MAD AND GETTING Madder GEE-- I WONDER WHY PHILLIP AND HIS BROTHER DONNIE DIDN'T GET ALONG? MY GOD, YOU'D PROBABLY NEED A GEOLOGIST TO EXPLORE THE CHASM BETWEEN THEM."

I'M IN NO MOOD FOR THIS, GUYS...



"I WAS SO ANGRY I UNDERESTIMATED BAUMAN'S BODY-GUARDS. BIG MISTAKE."

ugh!...

GRAB HIS BOW!



THAT WOULD BE A GREAT HEADLINE, WOULDN'T IT? "ACTION STAR BAUMAN'S BROTHER IS GAY!"

WHO'S PAYING YOU TO RUIN MY CAREER?

"BALIMAN'S BACK YARD MADE YOSEMITE LOOK LIKE A FREEWAY MEDIAN STRIP. REMEMBER WHAT I SAID ABOUT FIVE MILLION? THAT WAS LOW."

HE'S HEADING ONTO THE GROUNDS! GET THE OTHERS!



"TALK ABOUT CRAZY-- I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF LOS ANGELES, AND I WAS LOST IN A RAIN FOREST."

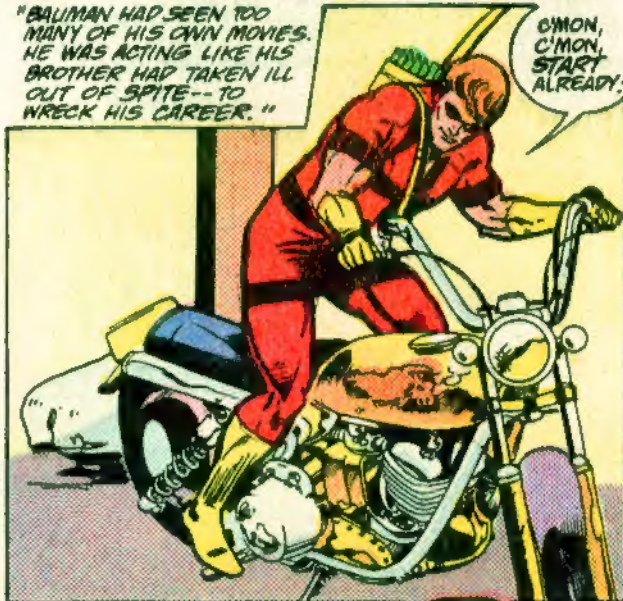


"BALIMAN'S GARAGE WAS A TREASURE TROVE OF ANTIQUES. I HEARD VOICES IN THE DISTANCE AND DECIDED DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR."



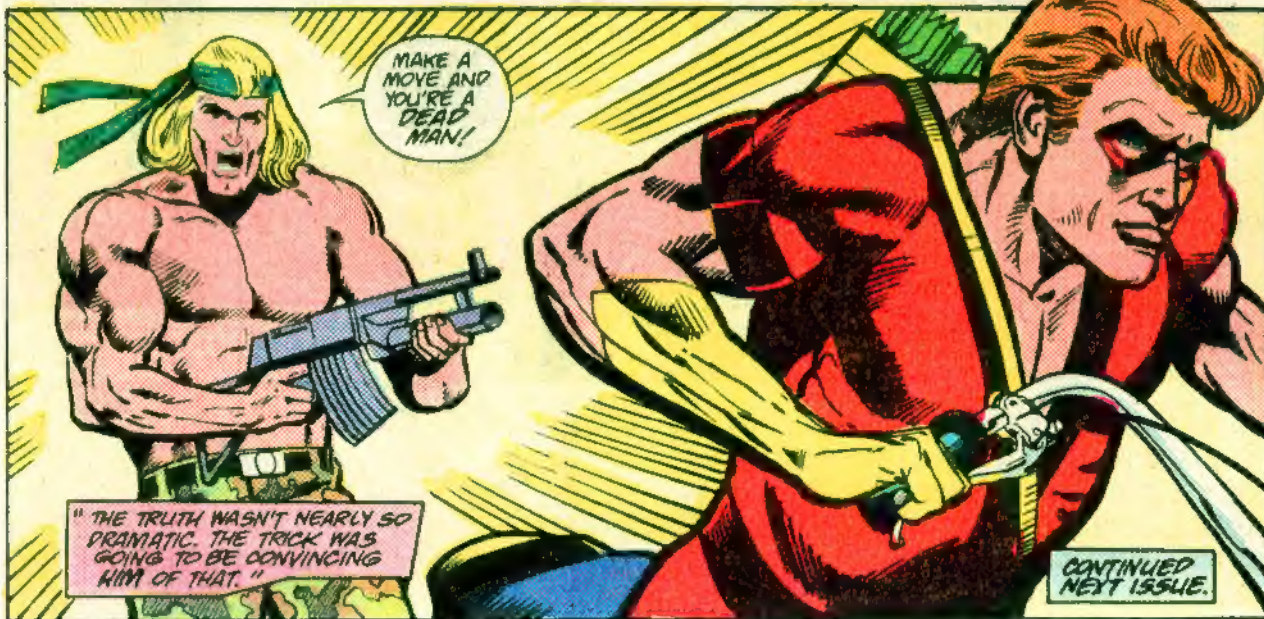
"BALIMAN HAD SEEN TOO MANY OF HIS OWN MOVIES. HE WAS ACTING LIKE HIS BROTHER HAD TAKEN ILL OUT OF SPITE-- TO WRECK HIS CAREER."

OH MON, C'MON, START ALREADY!



MAKE A MOVE AND YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!

"THE TRUTH WASN'T NEARLY SO DRAMATIC. THE TRICK WAS GOING TO BE CONVINCING HIM OF THAT."



CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE.

JASON'S GOING
TO BE FURIOUS,
GLENDA!

HE SAID HE WOULD HANDLE THIS
MORGAN LE FAY BUSINESS
ALONE. HE EXPRESSLY FORBODE
US TO GET INVOLVED! PLEASE--
TRY TO BE RATIONAL ABOUT
THIS!

A ROCK?

YOU'RE TAKING
A ROCK TO
ENGLAND?

MY... UH, MY PET. GUESS
I NEVER GREW OUT OF
THE OLD CRAZE!

THERE'S NO
POINT TRYING
TO BE RATIONAL,
RANDU!

RATIONALITY AND
DEMONS ARE AT OPPOSITE
ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM.
THEY HAVE NOTHING TO
DO WITH EACH OTHER!
ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I
FEEL--

AND I FEEL THAT JASON *NEEDS*
ME. ALL THOSE YEARS WITH
ETRIGAN GNAWING AWAY
INSIDE HIM, POISONING HIS
THOUGHTS-- HIS DEEDS-- HIS
VERY EXISTENCE! HE NEEDS TO
KNOW THAT SOMEONE *CARES*
ENOUGH TO EVEN TRY TO
HELP HIM...

I CAN BE THAT
SOMEONE,
RANDU.

YOU DON'T HAVE
TO COME. AFTER THE
WAY BELIAL KILLED
HARRY, I WOULDN'T
BLAME YOU FOR
KEEPING OUT OF IT.

MY SENTIMENTS
EXACTLY! UNFORTU-
NATELY, JASON IS MY
FRIEND. MORE AND
MORE, I FEEL MY
FATE IS SOMEHOW
BOUND TO HIS. I ONLY
HOPE THAT, IF HE IS
IN DANGER--

PART III THE ROAD TO HELL

"WE MERE MORTALS HAVE
POWER ENOUGH TO HELP HIM."

BY ALL THAT'S UNHOLY!
A DEMON WARRIOR--
ERUPTING FROM THE
HILL!

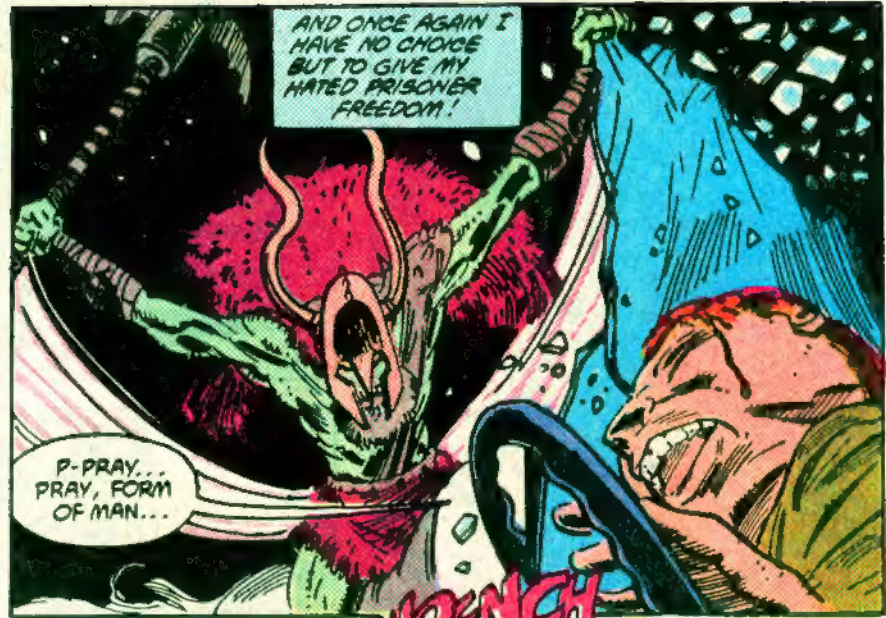
FUNNY, YOU'D THINK
THAT BEING IMMORTAL
--HAVING A DEMON
INSIDE TO HEAL YOUR
EVERY WOUND WOULD
MAKE PAIN MORE
BEARABLE...

ALAN GRANT, writer
MARK MACELLA, penciller
BILL WRAY, inker
JOHN COSTANZA, letterer
TATIANA MOOD, colorist
DAN RASPLER, editor



IT DOESN'T.

AAAH!



AND ONCE AGAIN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE MY HATED PRISONER FREEDOM!

P-PRAY...
PRAY, FORM
OF MAN...

WRENCH



ARISE, THE
DEMON--



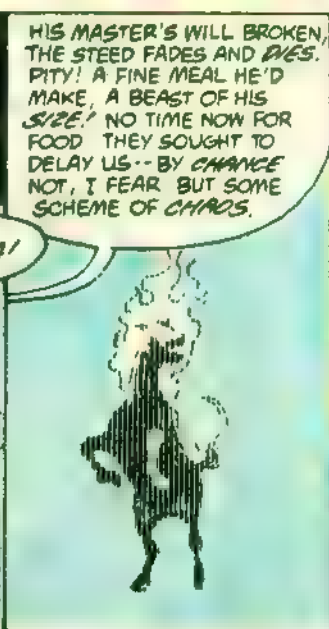
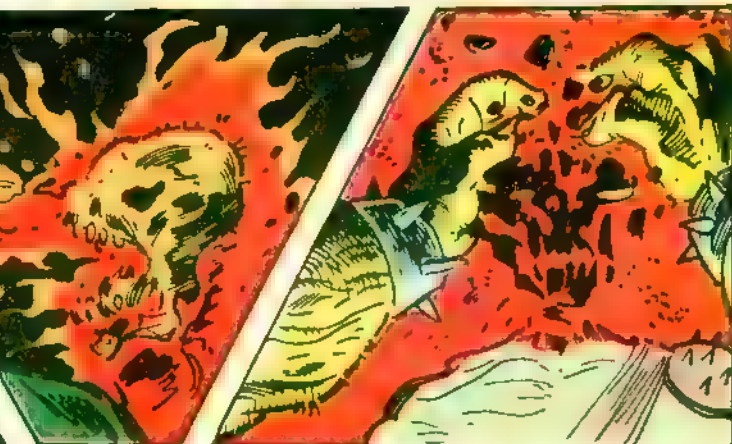
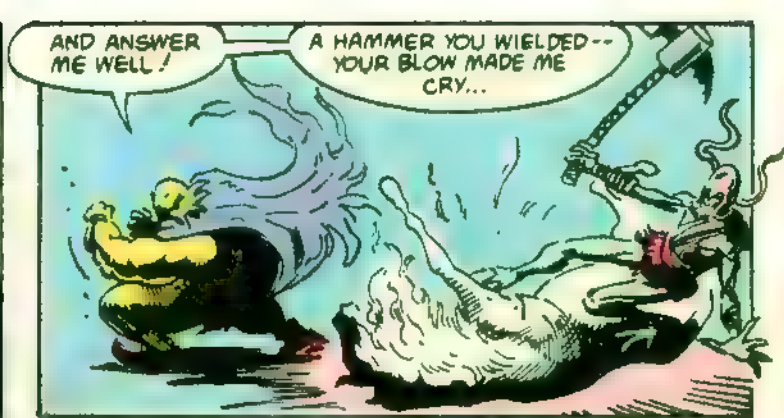
ETRIGAAAAGH!

YOU TRESPASS,
LITTLE DEMON!
AND BY THE EARTH-
MOTHER-- YOU
PERISH!



YOUR COWARD'S BLOW
TOOK ME UNAWARE--
BUT THIS DEMON LIVES
PAIN, SO WHAT DO
I CARE?

STILL... YOU
STRUCK A PIT-
SPAWNED PRINCE
OF HELL--



EH? SPEAK UP, JAILER!
YOUR SKIN-FACE IS PALE--
YOUR YELLOW HEART
PALER! YOU HATE ME, AND
BLAME ME FOR ALL OF YOUR
PAIN BUT IS TRUTH CLOSER
HOME? ARE WE TWO THE
SAME?

A THOUSAND YEARS I NEVER
SAW YOUR FACE. STRANGE...
BUT NOW MERLIN'S GONE, THE
RULES HAVE ALL CHANGED.
YOU'RE HARDLY ADONIS-- A
STICK IN THE MUD. BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING I LIKE ABOUT
YOU, JASON...

BLOOD!

AT TINTAGEL AWAITS LE FAY. MAYHAP
THERE I'LL HAVE MY PLAY. TILL THEN--
RISE ONCE MORE THE FORM OF MAN...

AND GONE THE
DEMON, ETRIGAN!

SO HE HEALS ME WITH HIS FIERY TOUCH--
AND THE GAME GOES EVER ON.

GOING ANYWHERE
NEAR TINTAGEL?



OOOO! HE'S A JOY TO WATCH IN ACTION, YOUR BIG BROTHER!



AND DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE IRONY? HITCHING A RIDE INDEED... ALL THE WAY TO HELL!

HEH HEH HEH!



WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING TO SAY, MERLIN, YOU OLD WRETCH?

NO? BEST NOT TO. BEST IF YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON THOSE THORNS--THOSE PAINFUL ELDRITCH HAWTHORN SPIKES



PRICKING YOU... BLEEDING YOU... DRIBBLING YOUR WRETCHED LIFE AWAY! SAPPING YOUR WILL...

STEALING YOUR POWER



MY POWER!



SORRY, I KNOW I SAID I'D WAIT... BUT YOU KNOW TEMPTATION NEVER MIND. JUST YOU LIE BACK AND BLEED

URP!

LET'S SEE HOW OUR OTHER... FRIENDS ARE DOING, SHALL WE? YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY--

-- THE ROAD
TO HELL IS PAVED
WITH GOOD
INTENTIONS!
HEH HEH HEH!

WELCOME TO
LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT.
PLEASE STEP FORWARD.

WHAT'S THIS,
MA'AM?

IT'S MY
PET ROCK.

WOULD YOU
MIND LIFTING
IT OUT FOR
ME?

CUSTOMS

RADIOACTIVE, IS
IT, MA'AM?

RANDU!
IT'S GLOWING--
THE WAY IT
DID BEFORE!

I'M AFRAID I'LL
HAVE TO ASK YOU
TO ACCOMPANY--

NO! THIS
COULD BE
IMPORTANT--

YOU WILL LET
US PASS IN PEACE!
YOU HEAR--
IN PEACE!

ENJOY
YOUR STAY,
FOLKS!

WHAT IS
IT, GLENDA?
WHAT DO YOU
SEE?

NEXT...

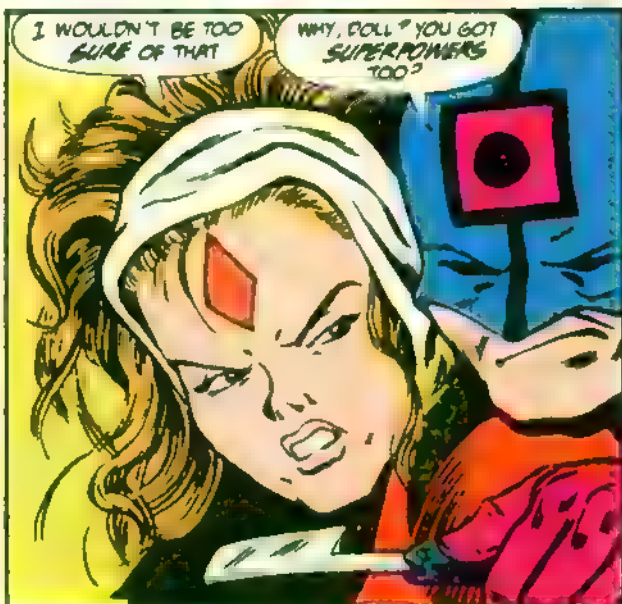
N
E
X
T
WITCH
QUEEN!

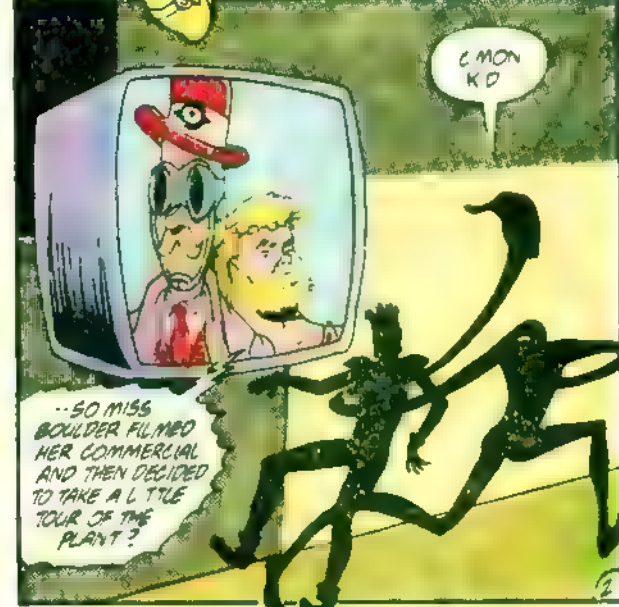
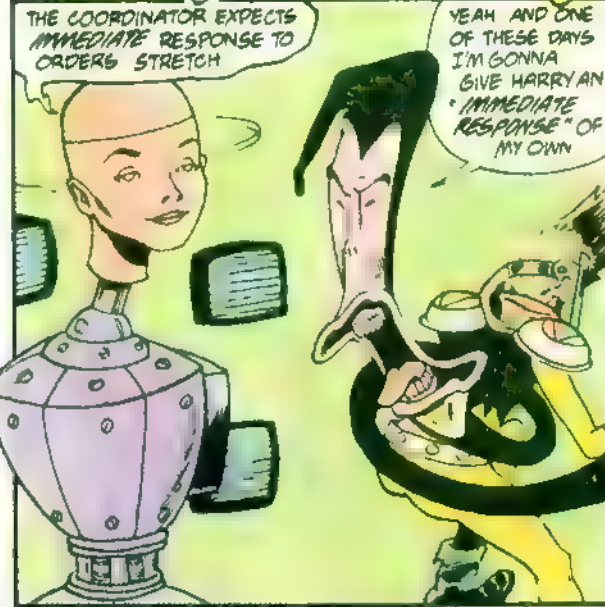
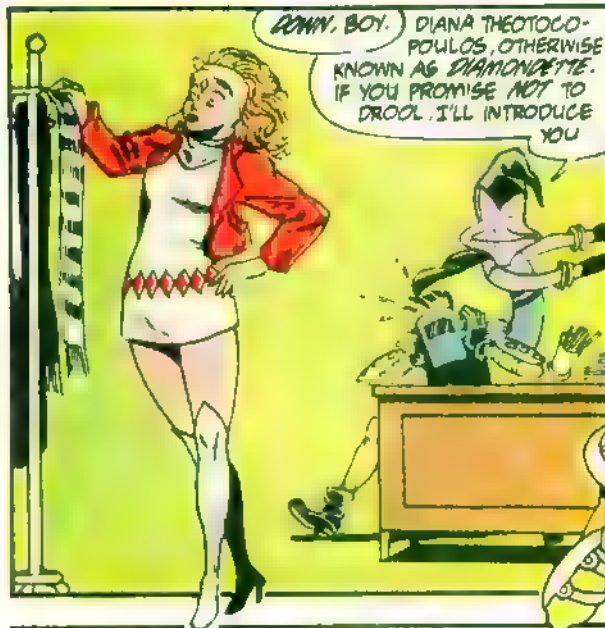
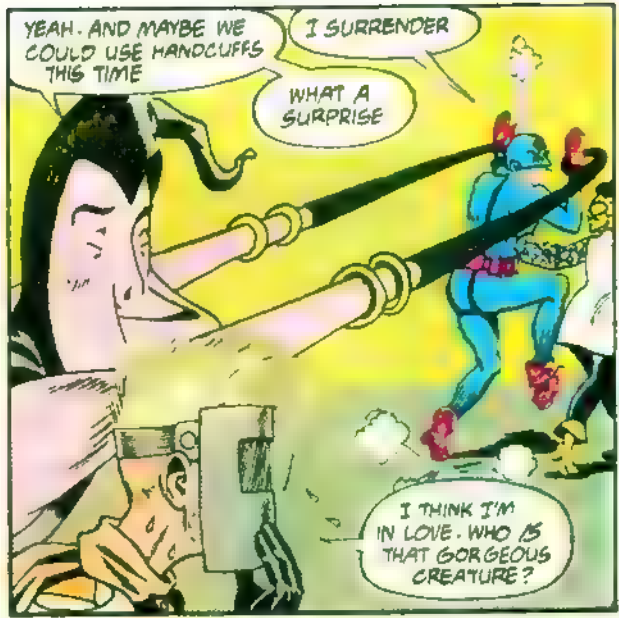
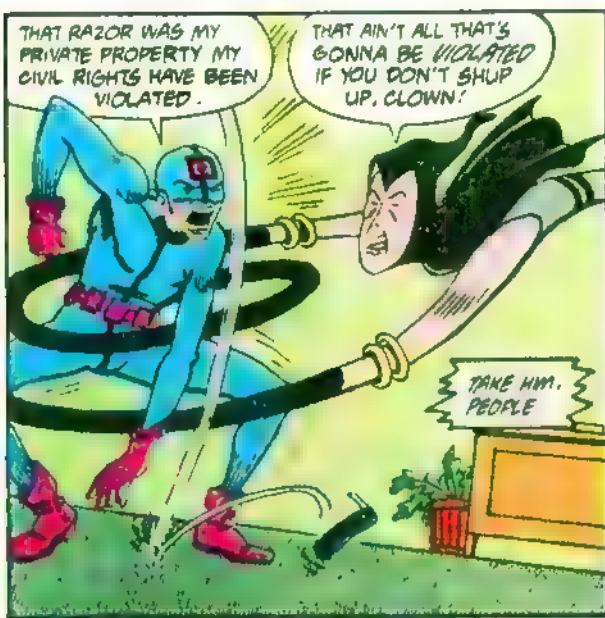
HERO HOTLINE™

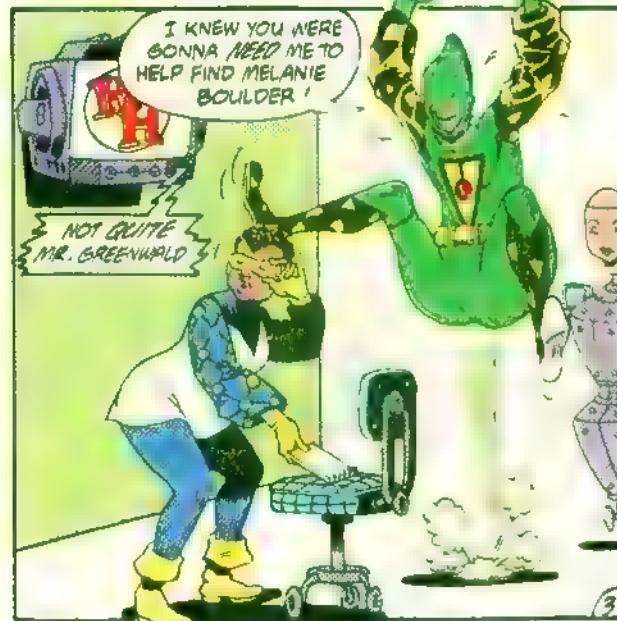
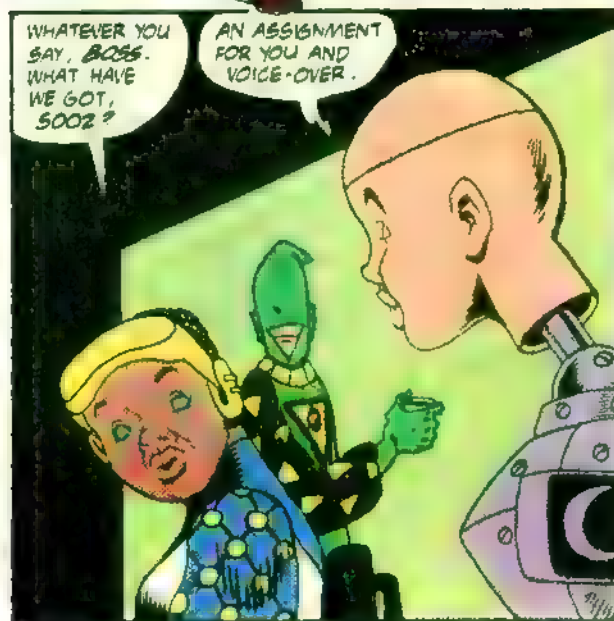
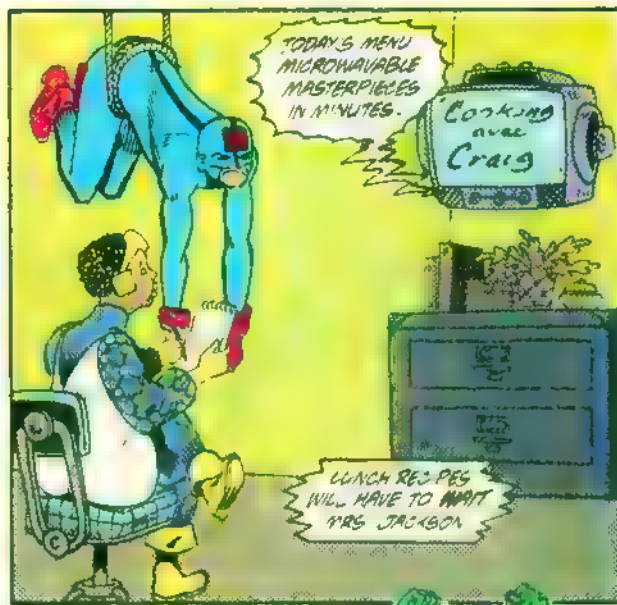
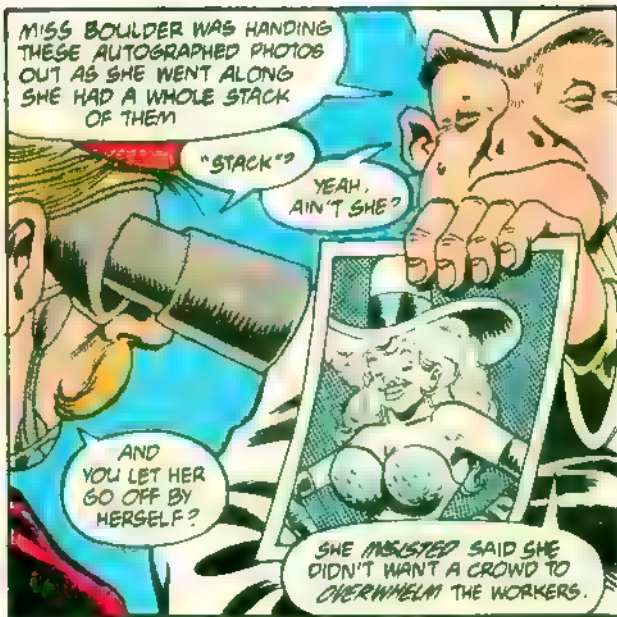
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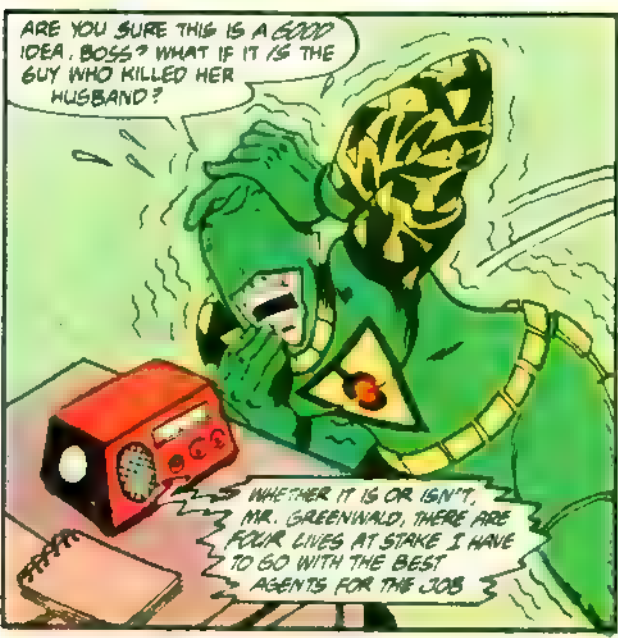
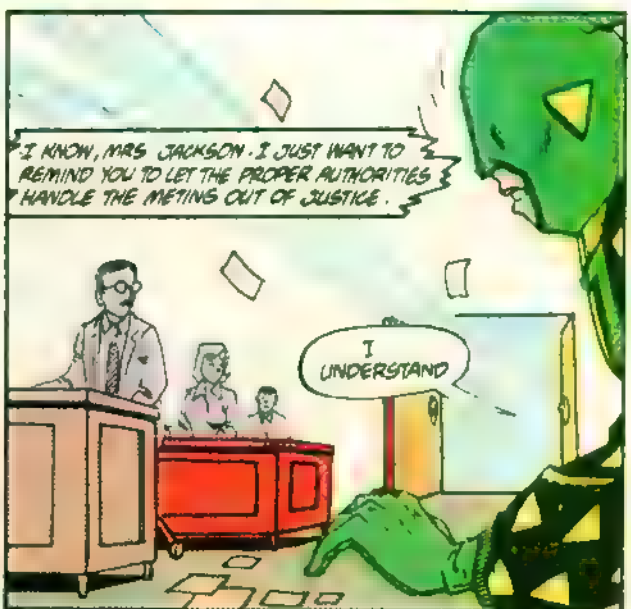
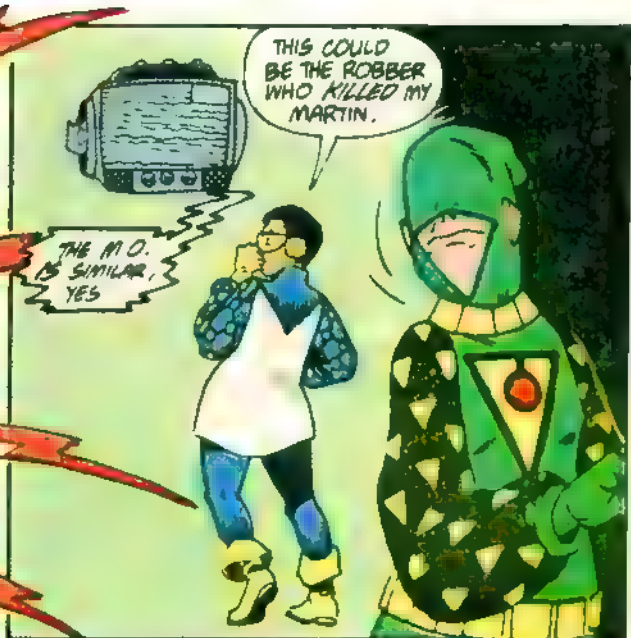
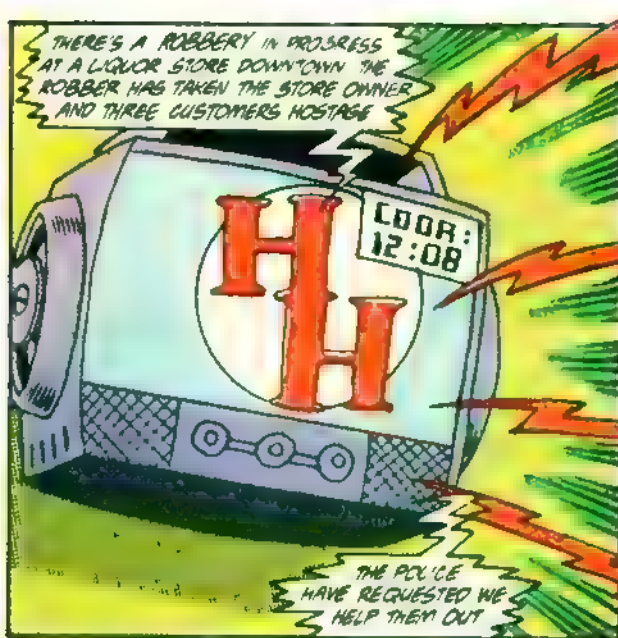
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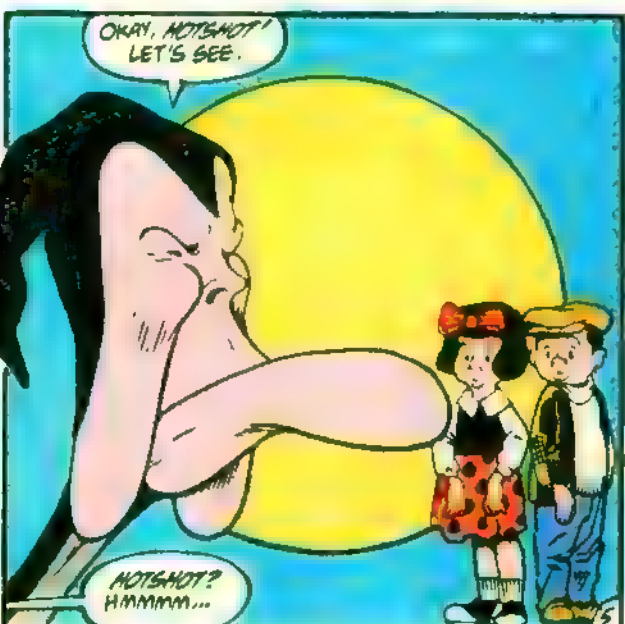
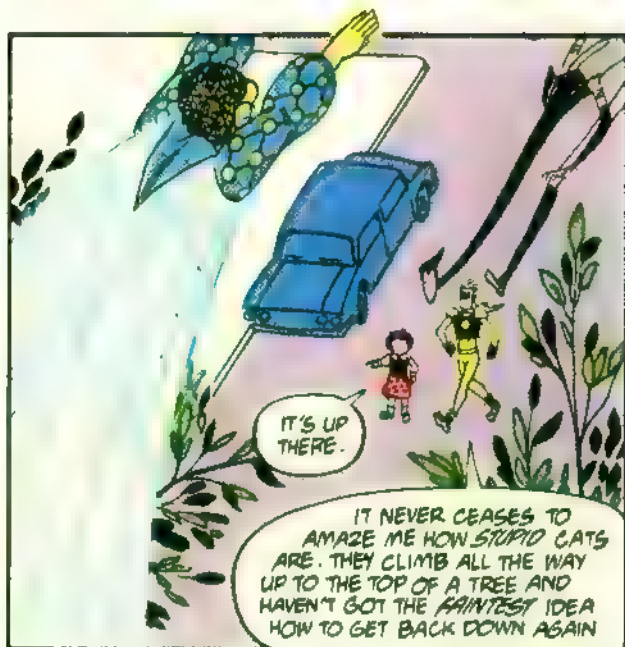
PREVIOUSLY IN HERO HOTLINE
A CAPTURED FELON HAS BROKEN FREE IN THE
HOTLINE SQUADROOM WITH A RAZOR THAT WAS
OVERLOOKED WHEN HE WAS FRISKED NOW,
IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE HE HAS
TAKEN A HOSTAGE...

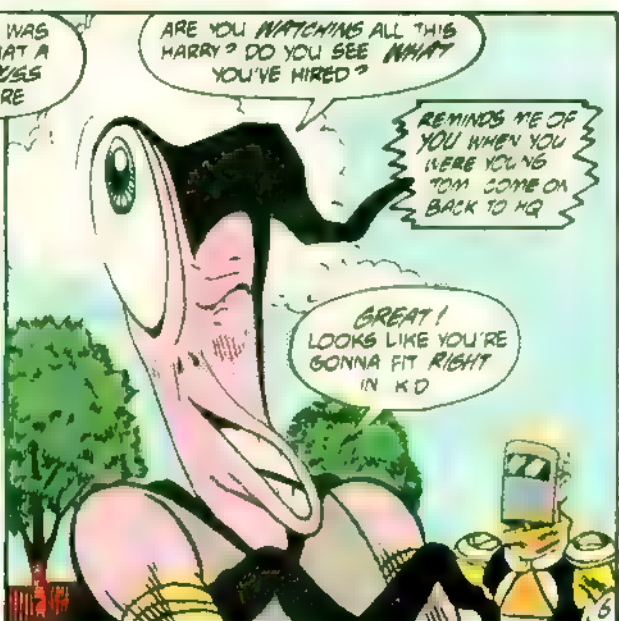
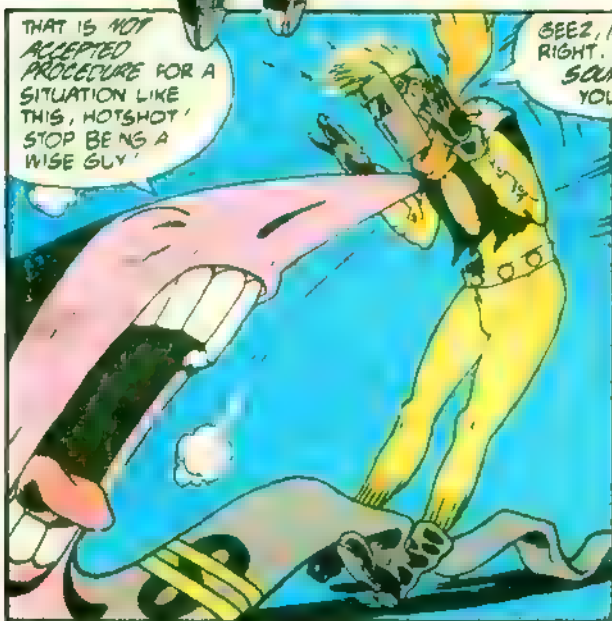
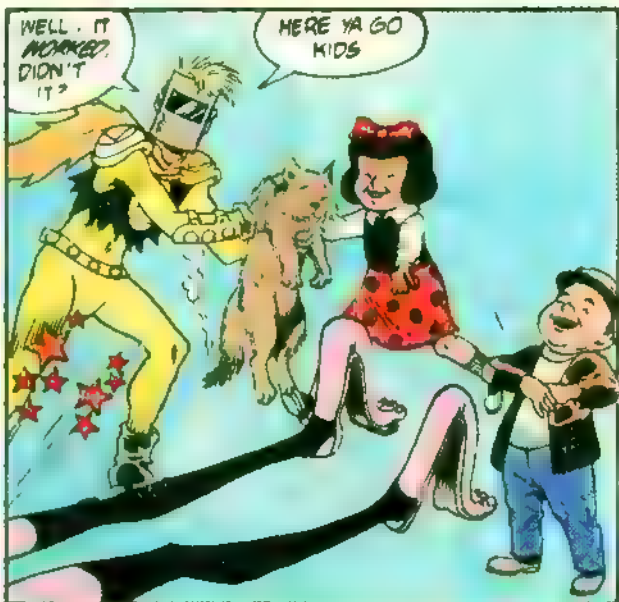
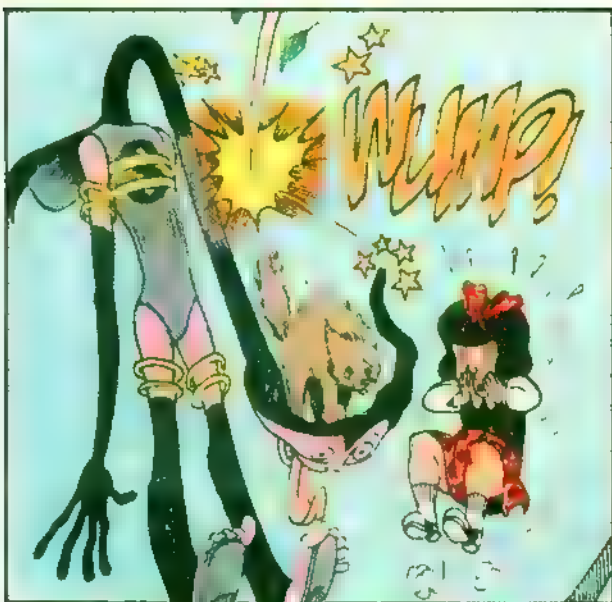
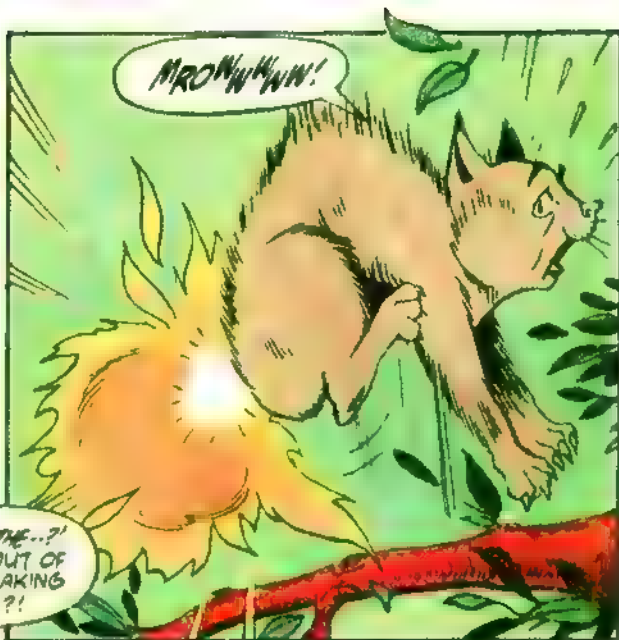
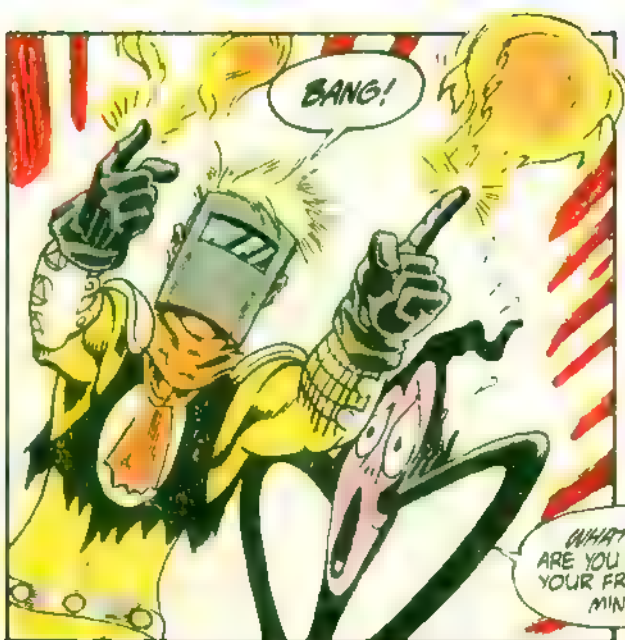






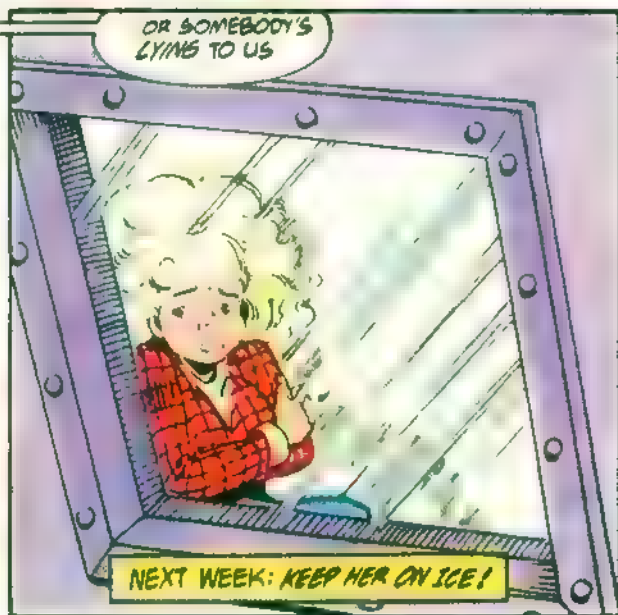
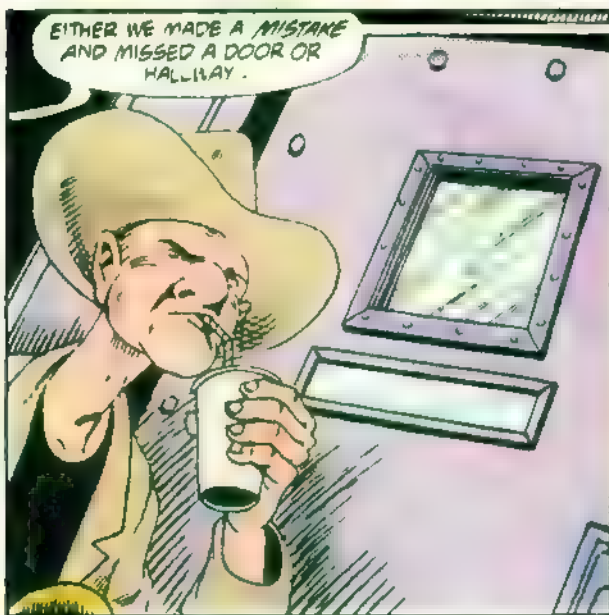
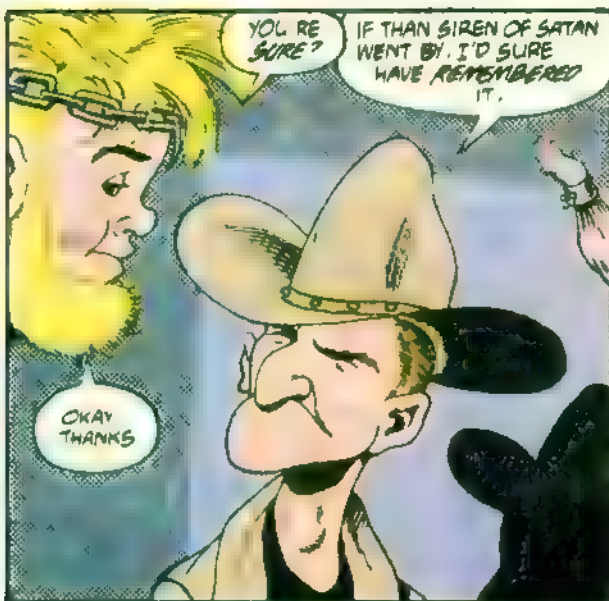
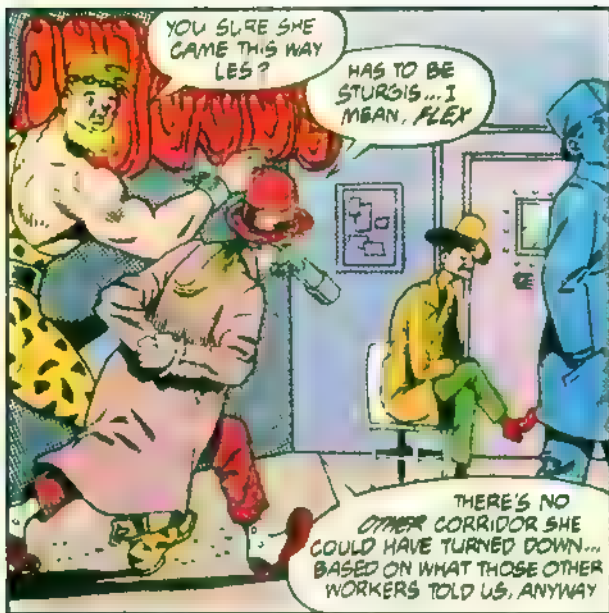






REMINDS ME OF YOU WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG TOM COME ON BACK TO HQ

GREAT! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA FIT RIGHT IN KD

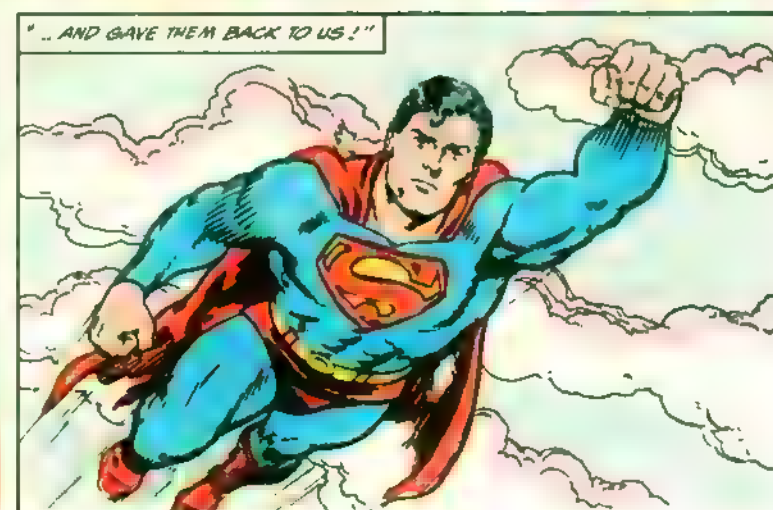
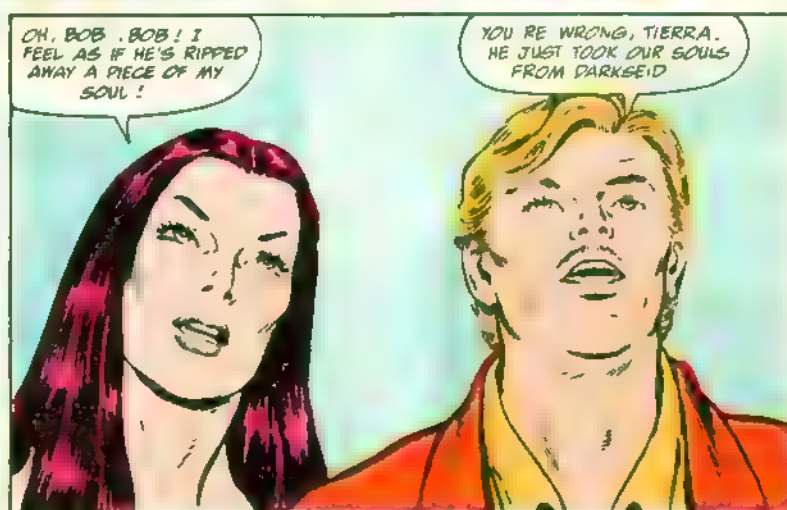
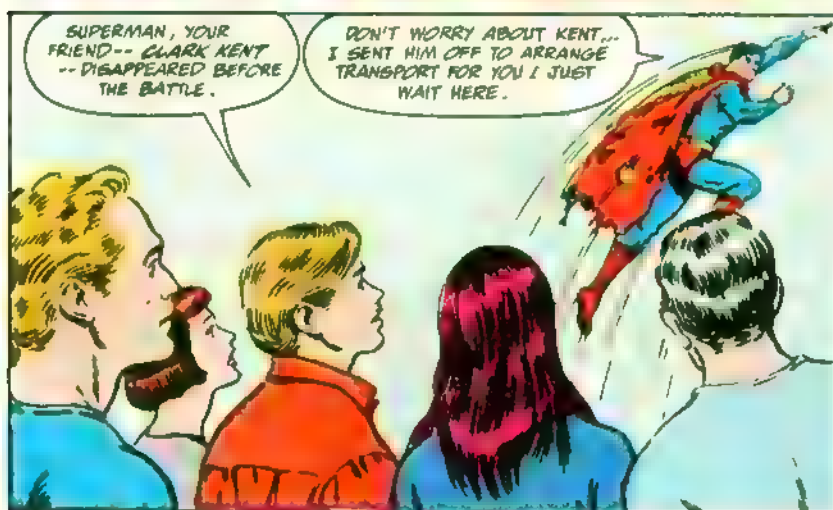
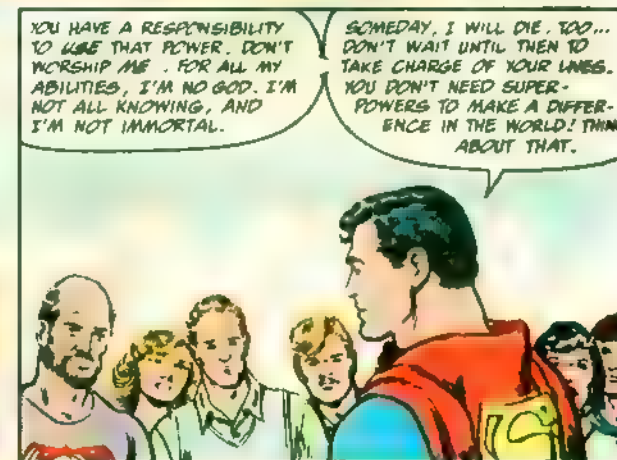
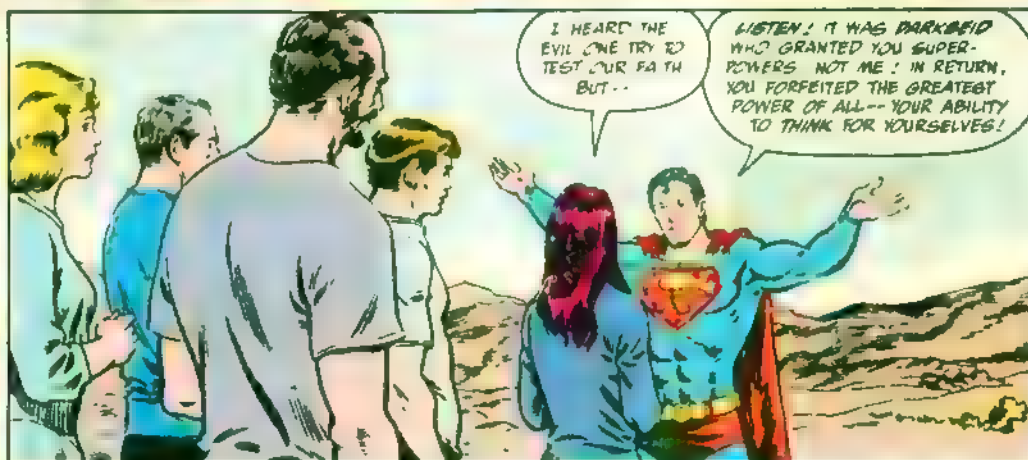
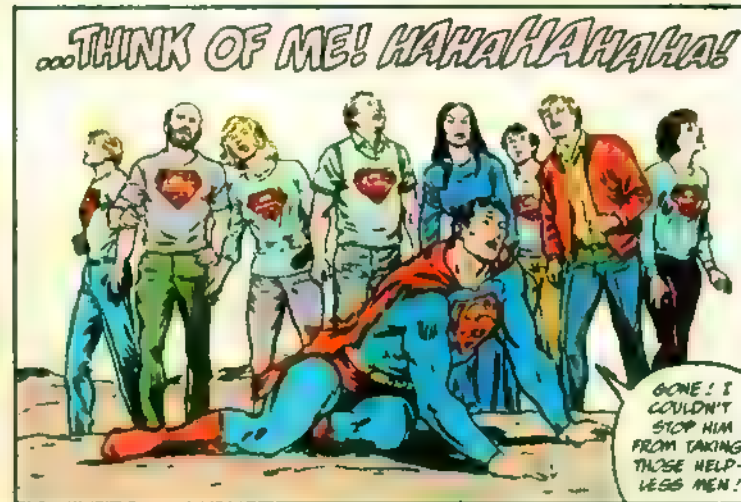
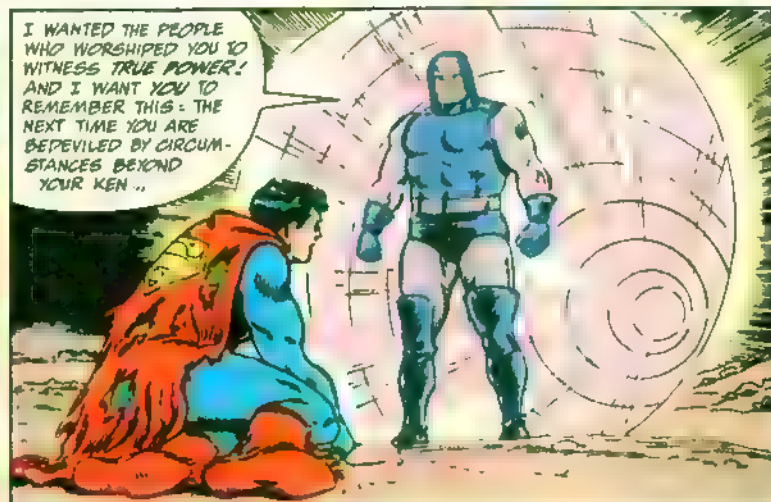


SUPERMAN

IN THE AFTERMATH OF A BIZARRE HOLY WAR, THE POWER BEHIND THE CONFLICT-- DARKSEID, LORD OF APOKOLIPS-- HAS TAKEN JOHN JODGES AND HIS FELLOW CONSORTIUM LEADERS PRISONER

THE POWER WITHIN

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MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
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-WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM PETER-





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PAT CALDON Controller

L-3541

Dear ACTION COMICS WEEKLY

I'd like to make a few comments on the letters of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627

First, why is everybody complaining about Superman not being in the center? I personally don't like seeing staples in the middle of my comics. I think that maybe something else should go there. Perhaps a record club ad!

Second, I agree with Coy J. Brown. You should call the new Showcase series star the original Captain Marvel instead of going with Shazam! I don't think the competition would have a leg to stand on if they tried to sue.

Third, George Stephens is right. Nightwing should be the star of his series, not Speedy. Tell Marv Wolfman to clean up his act or get out of town.

Speaking of Nightwing, I wish you could always give us a double dose of him. He is my favorite in this issue (next to the letters pages!!!). I don't know why I like him the best. I think it has to do with the way the action in his story goes. There isn't too much or too little. I know what I said about Speedy in the last paragraph, but maybe he's what helped make this comic great. It's nice seeing friends help each other out. I love the suspense at the end!

Green Lantern was handled well here, although I hope he remains the star. I mean I have nothing against Captain Atom, but Green Lantern is the main character. I don't know how many (or how few) heroes will be in the next installment, but I wouldn't mind seeing the Justice League International some time. (I buy them every month!)

I don't know why I voted for the Secret Six next, but I do think they're beginning to get better. Maybe I'm just getting more used to them. This story is doing all right by me. I think I like them because I'm starting to get to know them. I also like them because I like team ups.

Black Canary is better in this current story than in her last. I'm going to reread the last few installments again to make sure I know what's going on, but even if I don't like them as well when I've reread them, I'll probably still like this storyline better than her last. It's getting easier to follow this plot and the action's great, too! Also, I'm glad that some space in the magazine is going to the females. All we need now to make this mag better is a Vixen story! (Oh, how I wish Vixen was in the Justice League International instead of Suicide Squad!)

I like Superman, but I wish he had more pages. By the time I really get into the story, it's over. I wish your magazine had more pages, not just for him but for all of your stories. Maybe the comic should become ACTION COMICS DAILY! (except Sunday)

Even though you might not print this letter, I am happy that you do print letters from Kentuckians (namely Coy Brown)

Raymond D. Stablein
2394 Heatherway Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

Hey, look. Why should we want to even think about doing something that might prompt a lawsuit from the good folks at Marvel Comics? After all, this is a small field, and we should all be friends.

.....

Dear ACTION,

Word at my local comics shop has it that ACTION will be going back to monthly, and will stop being an anthology. Also, some of the features will be getting their own monthly titles. I think this is a mistake. Maybe sales prove me wrong, but I enjoy most of the series because they are weekly and in an anthology. I don't know if I'd buy any of the features as monthly titles. Why? The eight (or seven) page weekly format is what has hooked me. I don't mind if some of the features get their own titles, in fact, that's what happens with the Showcase stories. A lot of readers wrote to ask for more than two pages of Superman, but he already has two titles that feature full length stories. So if ACTION is to return to monthly, I hope you start up a new weekly anthology. If my information is wrong, you know at least one reader cares.

Now for votes and comments on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627 (briefly, this time)

1) Secret Six—This is a very consistent series. If it were in a monthly format I don't know if it'd work, but it works here.

2) Green Lantern—This edged out chapter one of Nightwing's tale due to the appearance of one of my favorite characters—Captain Atom. It also had a good sense of humor.

3) Nightwing, chapter one—I was a big fan of Dick Grayson when he was Robin, and the presence of Speedy is great. Normally I don't like kid side kicks, but you have developed both into

independent characters. I'd like to see more of both away from the Titans.

4) Nightwing, chapter two—Second to chapter one only because the first chapter was more concise and better set up. The art looks rushed.

5) Superman—I don't read his other titles with any regularity. This format works and this issue's installment presents an interesting problem for Clark Kent.

6) Black Canary—I hate to be the one to tell you, but there's this woman pretending to be Dinah "Black Canary" Lance in your pages. Well, she's not fooling me, and I don't think she's fooling anybody. The art is poor, the story is disjointed, and the characterization horrendous. Maybe I had too high expectations for one of my favorite females in comics.

Stephen Cade
339 12 Avenue N.W.
Calgary, Alberta

.....

Dear Mrs. Kesel,

On ACTION #627,

1) Nightwing—WOW! A cover by Gil Kane and 18 pages of Dick Grayson and his sidekick Speedy. I always think of Aika Seltzer when I see Speedy, he gives me a stomach ache, always talking about needing six months vacation and moaning about his "precious" daughter that he foists on the first Mrs. Sebastian that wanders by... he should've stayed outta the fight and protected his "precious." Grayson has fought crime solo many times and can handle any crisis. Nightwing needs no Speedy savior. Even Black Canary is allowed out without a bodyguard and she's a wittle gurl! Let's see a Grayson solo series!

Lovely close-up of blue-eyed Grayson on the splash page! Yum yum yum.

Welcome to Cherie Wilkerson as co-protector whatever that is.

2) Nightwing—Nice picture of Speedy Aika Seltzer on page nine, even if he should've been home baby sitting. And another lovely pic of Richard G. on page ten, panel three. As an artist, I appreciated the well drawn panels in the first half of the story. The last five pages had a half hearted look, as if the deadline was looming and Tom Mandrake didn't do a good job on the art.

Generally, I dug it! Now I'm really showing my age (sigh)

3) Black Canary—The art was very

uneven and awkward. Perhaps a more complete penciller is needed, or get Randy DuBurke to be more consistent and less "arty" in his work. Makes the story hard to follow.

4. I like the way the Secret Six gang have costumes reminiscent of Nightwing!

5. Nice to see Romeo's on Green Lantern and Captain Atom.

6. Supermacho—Even though I love Swen and Anderson, two pages is such a teeny bit, I can't follow whazz happenin'.

Once again, the cover of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627 was primo stuff. Really nice to see Gil Kane doing Grayson again! You might remind the colorist that Nightwing has violet-blue eyes, not white like on the cover.

Mercy
P.O. Box 1028
New York, NY 10028

You a friend of Roy Orbison's?

.....

Dear Mike and Brian,

Is it me, or did something go wrong in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627? Two chapters of Nightwing's story in the same issue? I sense a glitch in production.

I also hear that Green Lantern and Superman aren't going to be in the crossover anymore, as they're going back to their own books with the end of ACTION as a weekly book. I suppose that means that the experiment's failed, if true. At least the better or more popular features are gaining their own titles or minis (Superman, Green Lantern, Blackhawk, Catwoman). But what happens to the other features? Where do Wild Dog and Deadman go from here? Will Black Canary—a feature I've liked in opposition to everyone else, it seems—revert to supporting feature status in GREEN ARROW? Have we seen the last of the Secret Six for another decade? Is there any point in still sending in votes? Anyway, here are some votes on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #627.

First—Gil Kane's cover. Vintage material, infinitely better than his rush job on the early Green Lantern stories in this book, and nicely capturing Dick Grayson's determination.

Second—Black Canary. I remain convinced this strip has suffered from its unconventionality. True, DuBurke has his teething problems, but some of the imagery remains wonderfully vivid. And I suppose Sharon's deliberately obscure strips aren't what everyone expects. But Dinah fully deserves her own feature, somewhere.

Third—Green Lantern. The settled team is finally giving Hal some consistently good stories. They'll be good on the new book if they're producing it.

Fourth—Nightwing, and the second half was better than the first. But this is much, much better than the previous Nightwing feature, mainly because the

art is decent. I hope Tom has a regular assignment somewhere. There are still a few too many British/Irish caricatures thrown in, but at least someone's done some research into the country and its culture.

Fifth—Secret Six—but again, a good episode, much less cluttered than usual. I still have no idea who Mockingbird is or whether the original group is (I hope) still alive.

Sixth—Superman. Roll on Perez.

Malcolm Bourne
6 Craigwell Road
Prestwich
Manchester M25 8EF
ENGLAND

Clearly, certain aspects of ACW didn't work, Malcolm, but with spin-offs involving Blackhawk, Green Lantern, Wild Dog, Deadman, and possibly Speedy, Nightwing, and The Demon (mini-series for each are in the discussion stage), and with a new anthology waiting in the wings, we're hard pressed to call this project a failure. You don't get anywhere playing it safe all the time.

As for Black Canary, well, she'll continue to play an important role in our GREEN ARROW monthly (and semi-monthly this summer) ... and we're setting up plotlines all over the place for a Green Arrow/Black Canary/Speedy reunion.

.....

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY.

Captain Atom's tenure in the Justice League International seems to have adversely affected his common sense. I was thinking, "why him?" but I suppose "why not him?" is more appropriate. Of all your heroes, Captain Atom is probably the only one who would react like he did. Many would have been hurt after the first greeting. Of those who could take the punishment, most would have tried a different approach from charging right back in there.

Of the few who would have found

themselves in the same position as Captain Atom when Green Lantern arrived, all, except possibly Guy Gardner, would have listened and sat tight. Not proud, arrogant, inexperienced Captain Atom. Good choice!

As ever, I enjoyed the Secret Six. I wasn't around for the originals but I am a bit of a traditionalist, and I hope you're not about to reveal Mockingbird's identity to us.

If I have a complaint about Black Canary, it's simply that I don't like all the blackness. It makes what's going on harder to define. Other than that, I like it.

Of all the DC characters, few are obsessively concerned with their secret identities, Dick Grayson being one of them. Why would he switch to his costume just to follow some suspicious looking characters to the vehicle area of a ferry boat that probably only has two young American males on board? Other than that, chapter one was okay.

But with the beginning of chapter two, already I'm confused. Speedy was on a boat with at least four policemen. I note two being shot. Then he pulls Nightwing on board. They dive off, but there are only two heads in the boat. What'd they do with the policemen? It's "little" lapses like this that distract from the whole story.

I thought so little of both Nightwing chapters that I considered placing Superman fourth, but why break a 26 week streak?

Ray Rizer
422 Oak
Elwood, KS 66024 0026

.....

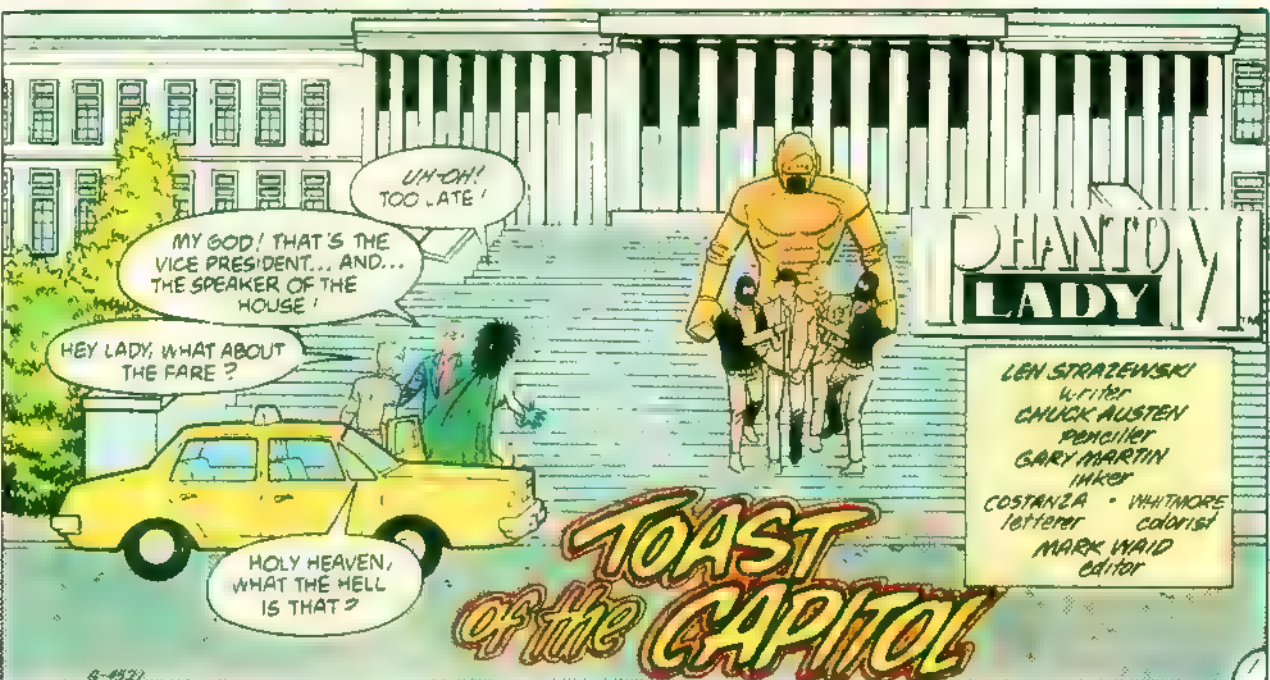
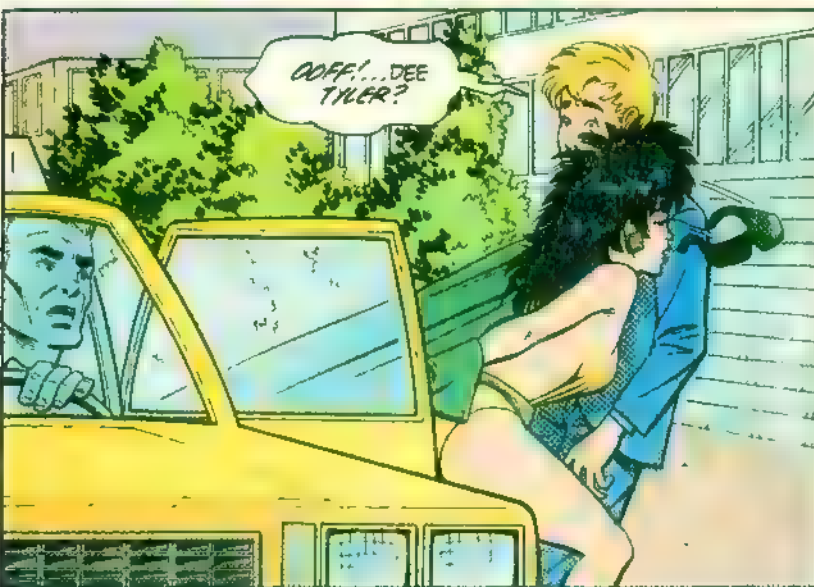
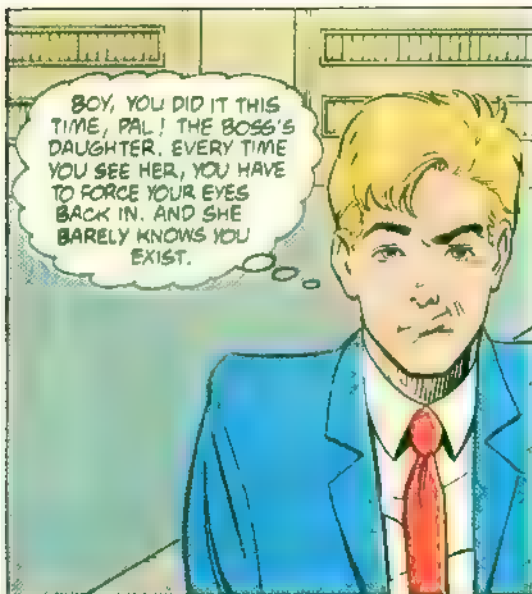
NEXT WEEK. The continuing adventures of all our heroes, and a striking Phantom Lady cover by Kevin Nowlan. Don't miss it!

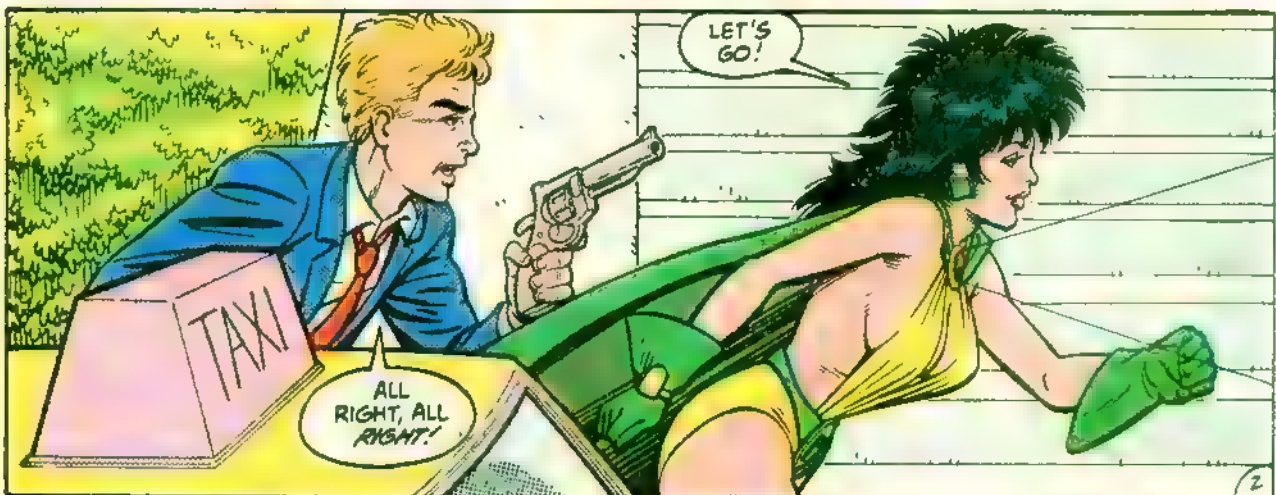
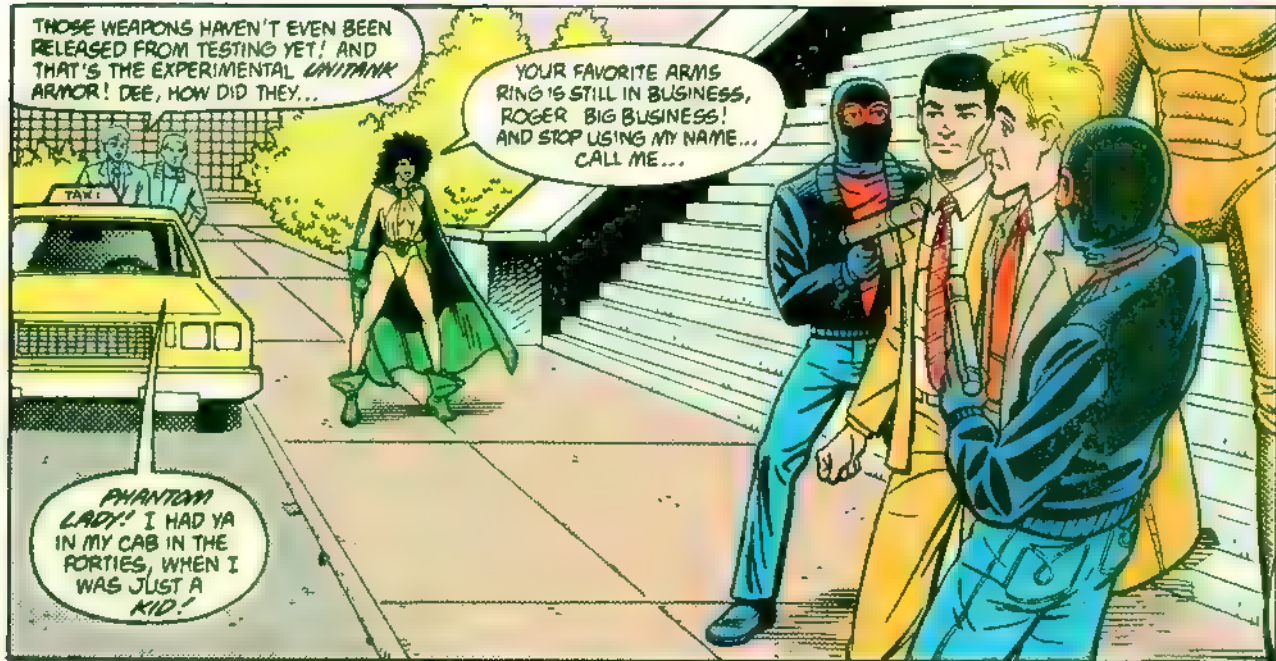
And keep an eye out for the debut of our new BLACKHAWK monthly, on sale in five weeks!

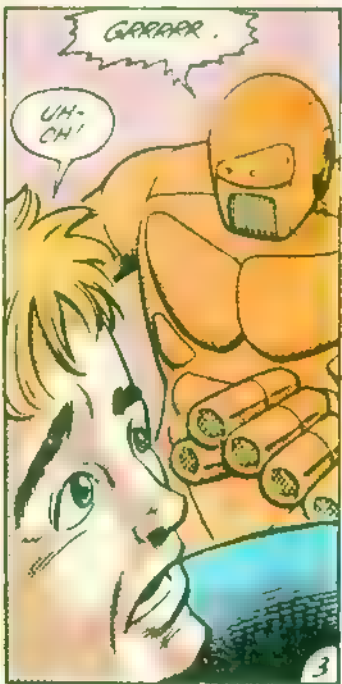
We'll see you in seven!

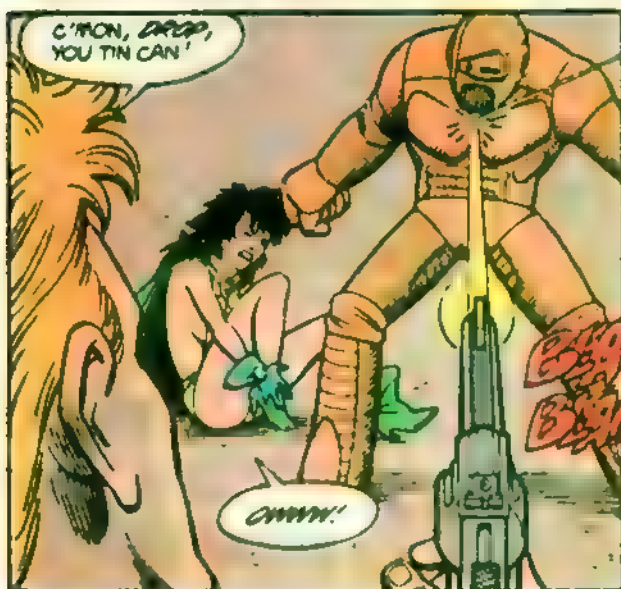
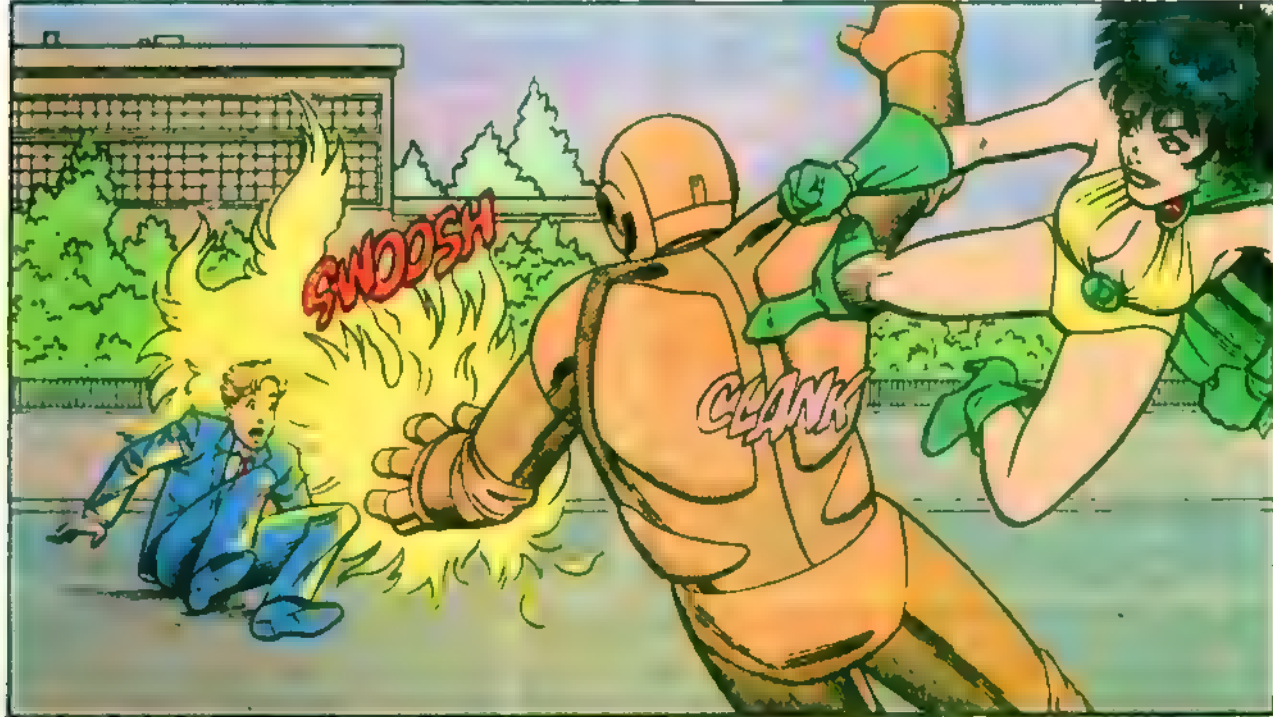
—Mike Gold

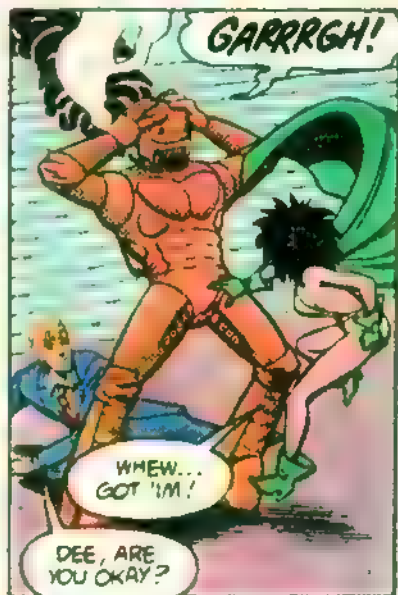
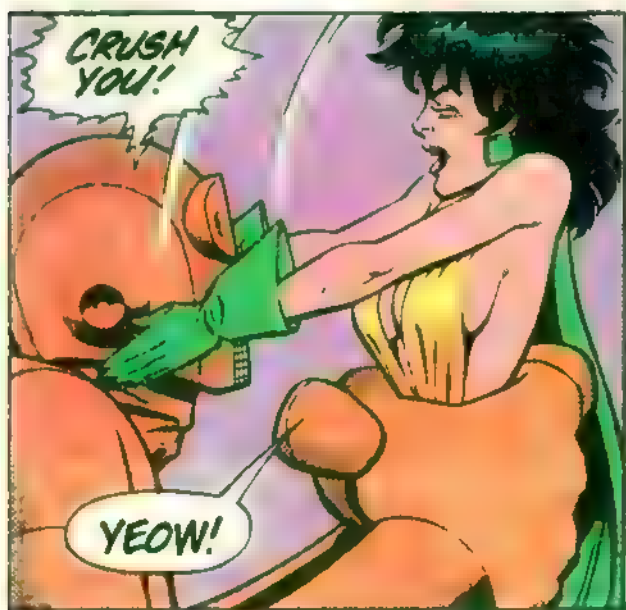
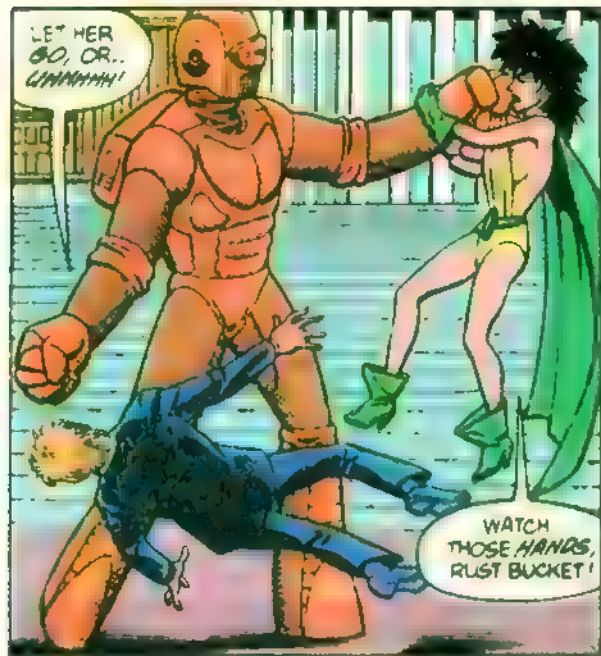


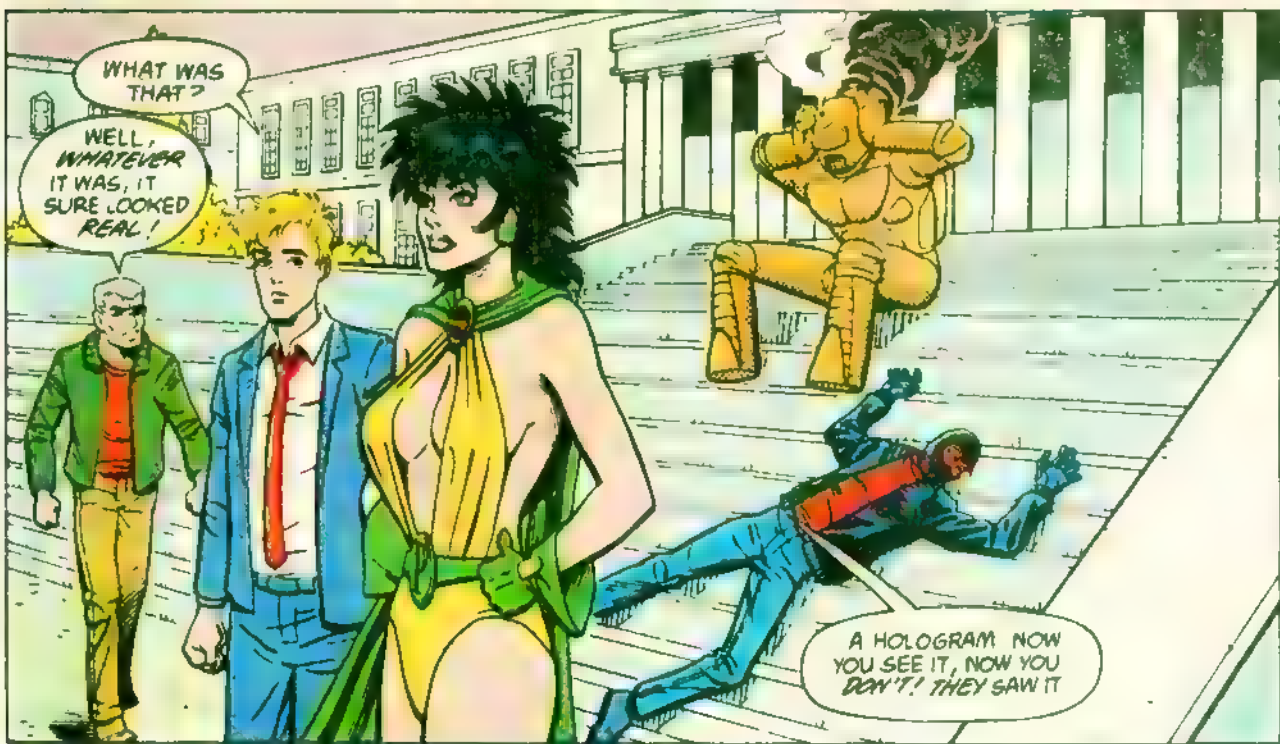
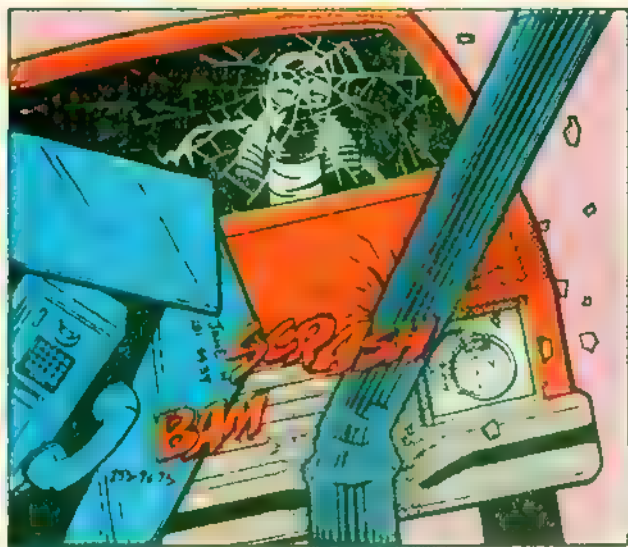
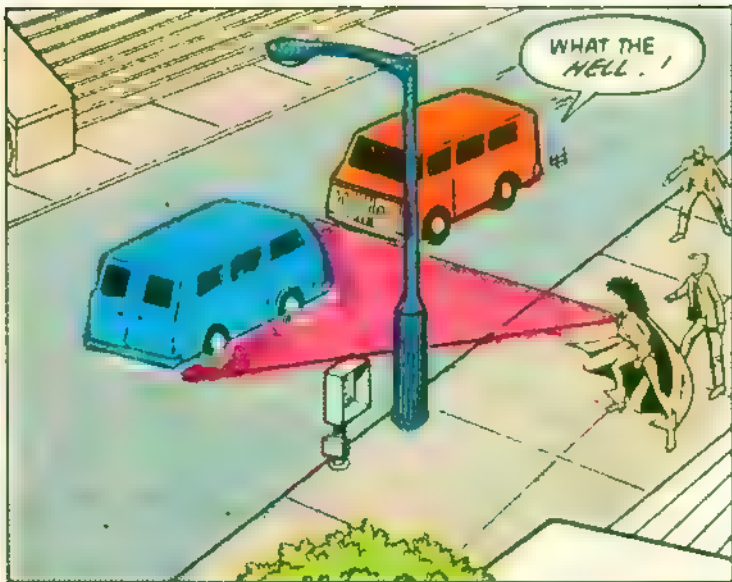












NO SUDDEN MOVES,
CREEP!

DAMN
GUERREHART! HE
CHEATED ME! HE TOLD
ME I WOULD BE INVUL-
NERABLE! DAMN
LES MILLE YEUX!

GUERREHART!
I KNEW THAT GUY
WAS CREEPY
I KNEW IT!

ME TOO SUGAR!
BUT NOW...

...HOW DO
WE GET HIM
WHILE HE'S
DROG?

BELLE OF THE BALL

WILD DOG

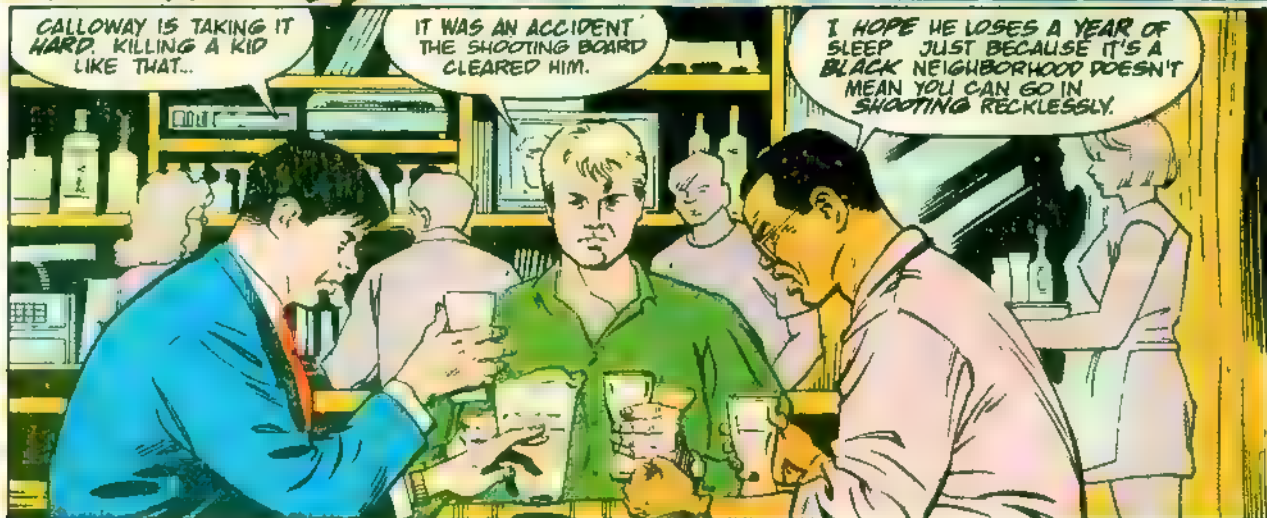


CRACK UP

WRITER CO-CREATORS PENCILLER
MAX ALLAN COLLINS TERRY BEATTY
INKER COLORIST
JOHN MYBERG CARL GAFFARD
LETTERER EDITOR
TIM HARRIS BRIAN AUGUSTYN

CHAPTER THREE:

BRAVE DOWN THE HOUSE



CALLOWAY IS TAKING IT
HARD. KILLING A KID
LIKE THAT...

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT
THE SHOOTING BOARD
CLEARED HIM.

I HOPE HE LOSES A YEAR OF
SLEEP JUST BECAUSE IT'S A
BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD DOESN'T
MEAN YOU CAN GO IN
SHOOTING RECKLESSLY.



YOU KNOW ME
BETTER THAN THAT,
LOL. GALLOWAY IS
A GOOD MAN... A
LITTLE INEXPERIENCED,
MAYBE..



NOT SO
INEXPERIENCED
NOW



WHAT WAS THE
DAMN POINT OF
YOUR RAID BESIDES
SHOOTING UP A
BUNCH OF KIDS?
DID YOU CLOSE
DOWN THAT
CRACK HOUSE?



I DON'T KNOW... IT'S A
CONDEMNED PROPERTY..
WE MOVE ONE GROUP
OUT, ANOTHER CAN
MOVE IN EASY
ENOUGH ..

SO THE BOTTOM LINE IS:
THE DEALERS ARE STILL
IN BUSINESS, AND ONE
INNOCENT KID'S DEAD.
TERRIFIC.

WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN, LOU--
OUR INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING,
AND WE'LL GET SOME RESULTS..

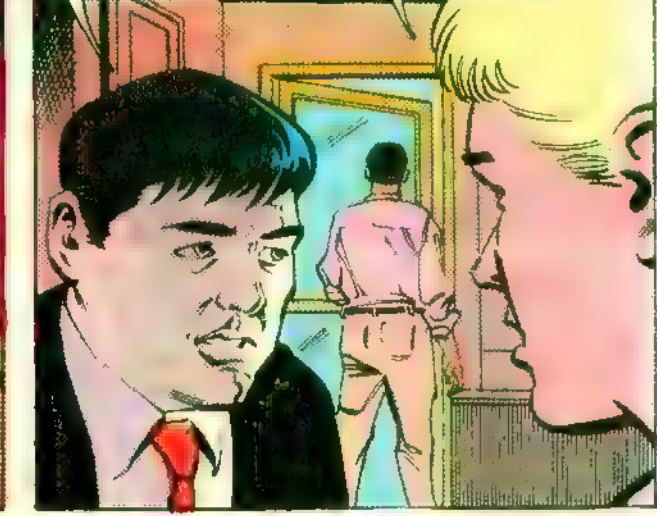
I'VE SEEN YOUR RESULTS!
A DEAD TWELVE-YEAR OLD!
WHAT ABOUT THE BIG
SHOTS? THEY GET
A FREE RIDE.



GO UP THE LADDER HIGH ENOUGH,
YOU'LL FIND BAD GUYS OF A
DIFFERENT COLOR ALTOGETHER!

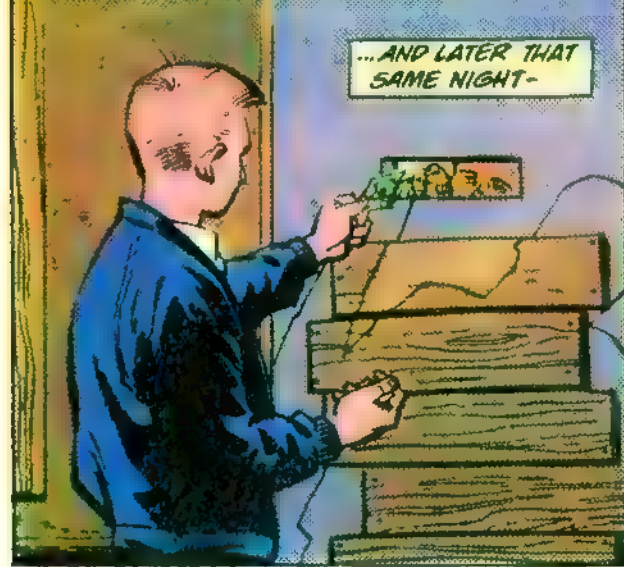
I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D SEE LOU CALL
ME A RACIST.

HE'S A LITTLE DRUNK, YOU'LL
GET AN APOLOGY IN THE
MORNING.



"MAYBE I DON'T DESERVE ONE."

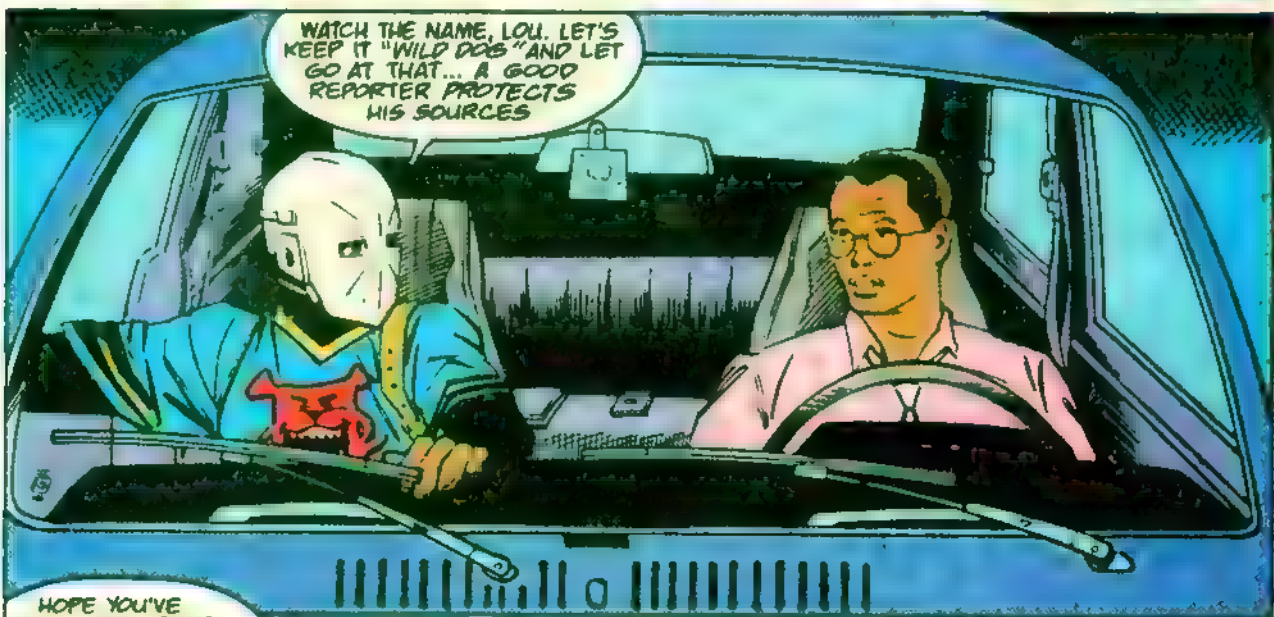
...AND LATER THAT
SAME NIGHT-



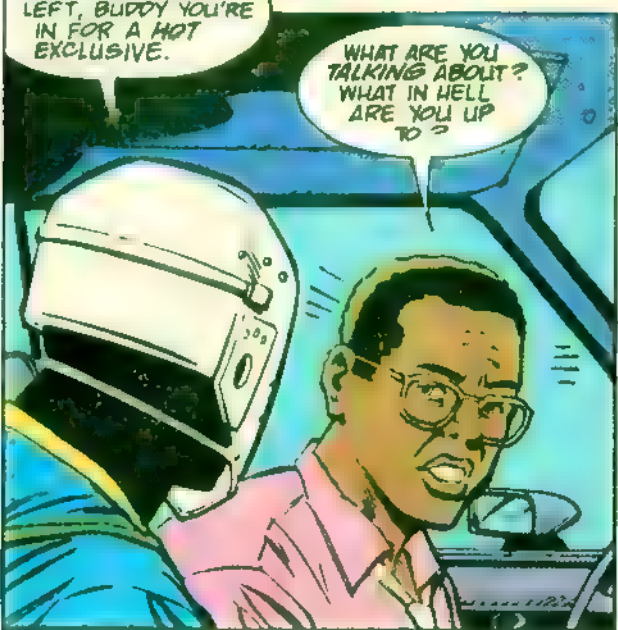


HI, LOU. YOU WERE A LITTLE TOUGH ON ANDY, DON'T YOU THINK?

JACK... WHAT THE HELL...



WATCH THE NAME, LOU. LET'S KEEP IT "WILD DOGS" AND LET GO AT THAT... A GOOD REPORTER PROTECTS HIS SOURCES

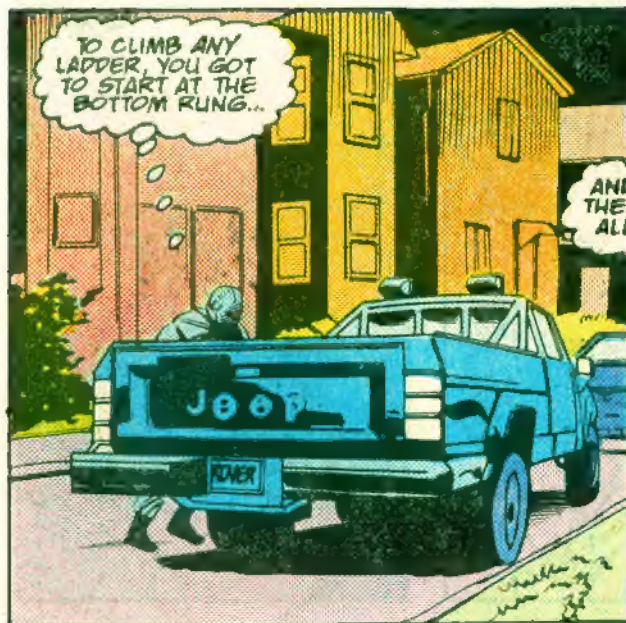


HOPE YOU'VE GOT SOME FILM LEFT, BUDDY YOU'RE IN FOR A HOT EXCLUSIVE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT IN HELL ARE YOU UP TO?



"YOU COVER THE NEWS, DON'T YOU? WELL STICK AROUND, 'CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO MAKE SOME... UH, YOU MAY WANT TO GET OUT OF THE CAR TO GET SOME BETTER SHOTS. EXCUSE ME..."

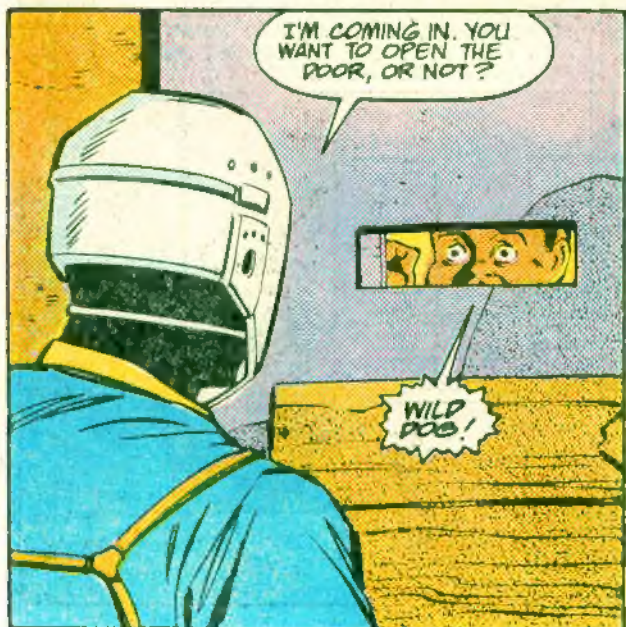


TO CLIMB ANY
LADDER, YOU GOT
TO START AT THE
BOTTOM RUNG...

AND THIS IS
THE BOTTOM,
ALL RIGHT.

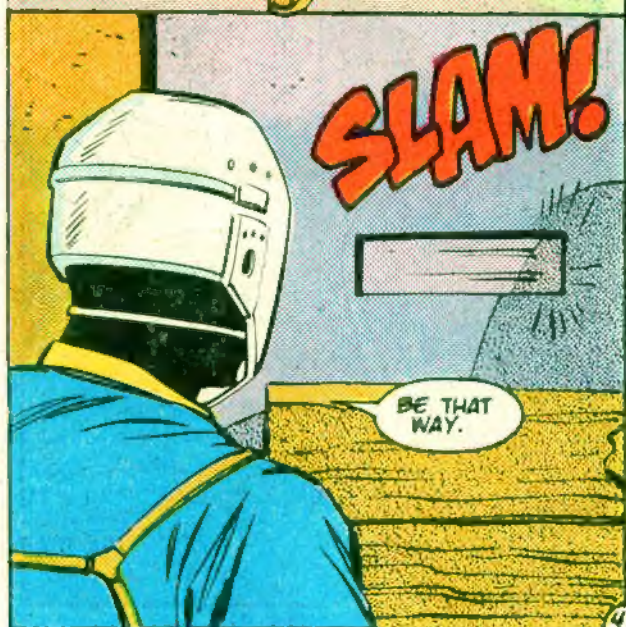


**Knock!
Knock!
Knock!**



I'M COMING IN. YOU
WANT TO OPEN THE
DOOR, OR NOT?

**WILD
DOG!**



SLAM!

BE THAT
WAY.

